

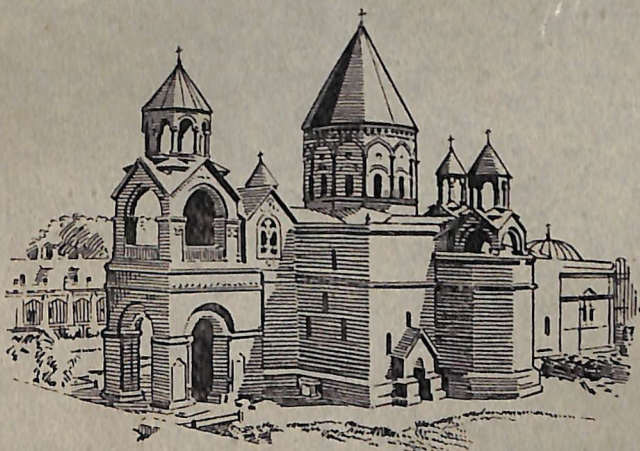
# ARARAT.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

*Vol. II. No. 22. London : APRIL, 1915.*

*Price 6d.*

*Annual Subscription 6 Shillings.*



All communications affecting this periodical should be addressed to the Editor, "Ararat," The Armenian United Association of London, 44, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W.



08 NOV 2012

JUN 2009

# ARARAT.

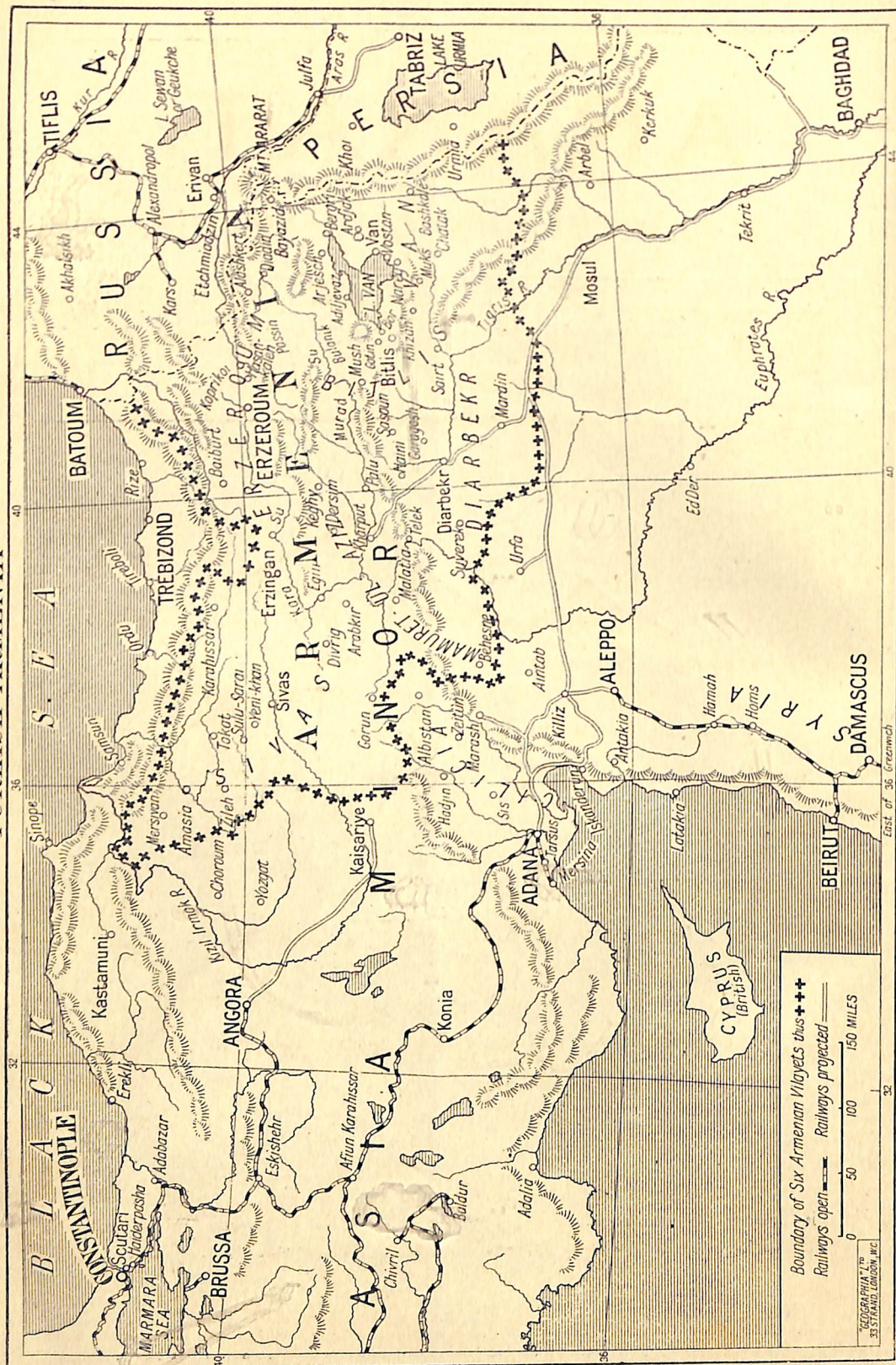
A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

Vol. II. No. 22. London: APRIL, 1915. Price 6d.  
Annual Subscription 6 Shillings.

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
1. Current Notes	351
2. Russia and Armenia. <i>The Orange Book.</i> —II.	358
3. Armenia's True Interests and Sympathies in the Great War, by F. R. SCATCHERD	366
4. A Contemporary Armenian Poet and Author	370
5. Archag Tchobanian	371-2
6. Russian and British Policy towards Armenia, by P. TONAPETEAN	374
7. Local Jottings— <i>Calcutta and Armenian Relief</i> ...	385
8. Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund	392
9. The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, by EMILY J. ROBINSON	393
10. "At Home" of the Armenian Association	395
11. Announcements	400
12. Advertisements	402

### TURKISH ARMENIA





## Current Notes.

We have again to open this month's Notes with the statement that so far as the Armenian theatre of war is concerned, there is nothing of importance to record. Much may be happening behind the scenes on the Russo-Turkish frontier and in Armenia itself of which we have no knowledge. Very momentous operations are, however, in progress in the Near East which will have a direct bearing on Armenia. The forcing of the Dardanelles has been resumed by the Allied Fleets and Armies, and a landing has been effected by the British forces on the Gallipoli Peninsula and by the French on the Asiatic coast. Russia too has begun her bombardment of the Constantinople defences in the Bosphorus, but we have no news yet of any land forces acting from that direction. The present operations differ materially from those undertaken a couple of months ago, and though the obstacles to success are considerable, the chances of forcing a passage by combined sea and land attack must have been well weighed by the Allies, and we doubt not that success, if slow in coming, will be ultimately gained. The nervousness of the Turks and Germans is obvious, if we may judge by the "war news" published in Constantinople and Berlin. Gigantic victories are reported—of the Allies being hurled back into the sea—but this is merely to hearten the population of the capital, who must have serious misgivings as to the end being in sight.

---

Though there is a lull in active operations on the Russo-Turkish frontier, serious accounts have come through of the outbreak of epidemics in Erzeroum and the neighbouring regions. Terrible as it is to contemplate the plight of Armenians who are still under Turkish domination, we hear rumours of impending massacres, and a wire has just been received from Tiflis imploring our Committees to urge the Powers to interfere and warn Turkey through the United States Embassies that she would be held answerable for any such catastrophe happening. A Reuter's telegram from Washington gives strength to these rumours from the fact that Russia has already taken this step of approaching the United States Foreign Office to give Turkey the necessary warning.

---

Most Armenians contemplate with eager anxiety the future status of their country, and what fate has in store for them in the re-shuffling of the cards after the last gun of the war has sounded. Though we use the word anxiety, there is underlying all a state of buoyant optimism, the innate optimism of Armenians through which alone they have survived, that the blood they are shedding now is not in vain, and that



they will yet come by their own and give the impress of their qualities to the land that gave them birth. It was with such feelings that they scanned the papers reporting the question put by Mr. Aneurin Williams to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when Parliament resumed its sittings on April 14th. The question and answer were as follows:—

#### ASIATIC TURKEY (ARMENIANS).

MR. ANEURIN WILLIAMS asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government will endeavour, at the end of this War, to secure for the Armenian people in Asiatic Turkey some measure of autonomy similar to that which the Russian Government has already promised to Poland?

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. Primrose): The hon. Member may be assured that His Majesty's Government will consider the interests of the Armenian people sympathetically; but it is not possible at this juncture to determine future political arrangements.

We could not have expected a definite promise to the question, but we are content to have the sympathy of the British Government, which we trust will operate at the right time and in the right direction.

In an interesting article on Caucasian Affairs in the Russian Supplement of *The Times* of April 26th, which we quote below, appears an account of Armenians in connection with the war. It is a strange coincidence that the writer's views regarding the restoration of Armenia, on similar lines to that of Poland, were put forward in *Ararat* as far back as September last in the article "Russia the Liberator."

The Armenians may be assigned to the fourth national group of the Caucasus. Though less numerous than the Georgians they constitute the most influential element in Caucasian life, and give it tone. Richly endowed with spiritual capacities generally, and commercial capacities in particular, the Armenians, as the Russian expresses it, "hold in their hands" everything in the Caucasus. It will suffice to say that they have money and that almost all large capital in the Caucasus belongs to Armenians.

#### POLAND AND ARMENIA.

No sooner did the war with Austria and Germany break out than a stir began among the Caucasian Armenians and they turned their gaze in the direction of the Turkish frontier. They well knew that Turkey would not remain an indifferent spectator of developing events and would not delay taking part in them. The manifesto with which the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army appealed to the Poles, promising them the restoration of Poland, could not fail to affect the Armenians also. A glance at

the map is sufficient to convince one of the similarity of the situation in Poland and Armenia respectively. As Poland was partitioned among Russia, Germany, and Austria, so Armenia was partitioned among Russia, Persia, and Turkey. As all the weight of the war fell on the territory of Poland in the West, so must all its weight fall on the territory of Armenia in the East. If there was ground for restoring Poland in the West, under the sovereignty of the Russian Emperor, then there was no less ground for restoring Armenia in the East under the same Power.

These considerations, coupled with desires to emancipate their countrymen from the Turkish yoke, disturbed not only the Armenian leaders but also the popular masses, and when Turkey by her raid on the Russian ports of the western seacoast of the Caucasus hurled a challenge at Russia, the Armenians began feverishly to form volunteer bands to fight their immemorial foes, the Turks. These volunteers came from all classes of the Armenian people, many were young students. How many Armenian volunteers have gone to the Turkish war I do not know; I only know that the figure far exceeds 25,000. Armenian capital has come to the aid of this movement. In addition to money collected in the Caucasus, Armenian millionaires living in Moscow subscribed a million roubles for the maintenance of Armenian bands; there are more than ten of such wealthy Armenians in Moscow.

#### TURKISH INDIFFERENCE.

Everybody knows what an important rôle the sentiment of the actors themselves plays in all affairs of life. In this respect Russia enjoys extraordinarily favourable conditions on the Caucasian front; the Russian troops regard their Turkish opponents with contemptuous indulgence, while the Armenians burn with a passionate desire to wipe the Turks from the face of the earth. In such circumstances, of course, things go badly with the Turks. The dejected state of the Turkish soldiers must also be reckoned as a factor favourable to Russia. Among them there is not and cannot be any animation, for not one of them knows why and for what he is fighting.

It is always interesting to read an expression of views in this country on the future of the Near East, as it is by such expressions from authoritative sources that public opinion is formed. We were pleased to see in the *Manchester Guardian* of April 23rd an article by Sir William M. Ramsay on *The Future of Turkey*, which is well worth perusing in full. We will, however, present here for our readers only such parts as affect Armenia:—

On the north-east a protected Armenian State is a necessity. The same difficulty of interspersed Moslem population presents itself here as on the west; but justice and reason and history



protest against the subjection of the industrious Armenians to the brutal Kurds and the lazy Turks. Freedom for Armenia ought to be a first and absolute condition. Unless diplomacy recognises this essential fact, it can do no good in Asiatic Turkey.

In his final conclusions, after pointing out how Smyrna might be made into the capital of a great and prosperous State, Sir William proceeds—

Turkey without Constantinople can be Europeanised from Smyrna. Turkey, seated at Constantinople remains a menace, for it must be the old Ottoman Turkey, the perpetual enemy of all good. Constantinople must go, and Armenia must be an autonomous State under European or Russian protection. These are the first conditions of peace in Western Asia. And all Armenians agree with Sir William Ramsay.

In the article dealing with the *Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund* it will be noticed with the greatest gratification the receipt of a further £1,000 from our compatriots in Sourabaya, Java, for remittance to His Holiness the Catholicos towards the relief of refugees, and of widows and orphans of fallen volunteers. This makes £4,000 already received from this small colony. That Armenians in such distant parts of the world should respond so magnificently to the needs of their less fortunate countrymen is a tangible proof, if such were needed, of the strength and solidity of the national spirit existing among them, no matter in what part of the world their lot may be cast. All honour then to our countrymen of Sourabaya, and also of Galoehan, who, we understand, have in like manner given their liberal support, for the excellent results which have been attained by these two small colonies in Java. We commend their patriotism as an example to other Armenian colonies, before whom perhaps the situation has not yet been forcibly placed, so that they too may take their humanitarian part in the present unparalleled crisis.

As we go to press, however, news comes by wire, under the names of Messrs. Edgar and Martin, that a sum of £310 has been remitted to us, representing the contributions of the Colony of Singapore. Similarly, Batavia reports that the contribution from that colony has been sent direct to the Catholicos. Furthermore, we would draw attention to the meeting of Armenians in Calcutta, under the chairmanship of Mr. C. L. Phillips, a full account of which we give in this issue under the head of *Local Jottings*. The enthusiasm displayed and the goodly sum collected for our unfortunate kinsfolk at this preliminary meeting augurs well for a substantial result when the list has been circulated

in India. Private information tells us, too, that the absence of a well-known name from the Calcutta list is due to that gentleman having sent direct a personal donation of Rs. 12,000—equivalent to £800. There is thus no wavering to meet the call of Etchmiadzin, but the magnitude of the disaster impels us to remind our readers that the call will continue for more—and more—until our refugees are finally settled again in their homes, and the devastation wrought in Turkish Armenia among those left behind has been made good when the end of the war permits.

Though we have emphasised with all our power the necessity for freely giving towards the wants of our refugees—and not only humanity but blood ties demand that this should be our first thought—another Fund has been started for national ends. Boghos Nubar Pasha, by a circular, dated March 15th, sent through the local committees of the Armenian Benevolent Union, whose headquarters are at Cairo, thanks those committees for the collections they have sent in, amounting in all to about 60,000 roubles, or £5,200, which has been forwarded to the Catholicos. He states that some of the contributors suggest that the time had come to open a Fund of a general nature, and not merely for the refugees. Accordingly, Boghos Pasha has formed under his presidency a Committee, outside the scope of the Benevolent Union, to collect funds for the work of National Defence. The heads of the three religious communities of Armenians in Cairo have consented to join this Committee. Contributions to this Fund will be received by the local committees of the Benevolent Union.

That the objects of this Fund have been anticipated already is clear from *Hairenik*, the official organ of the Dashnaksuthiun party in the United States of America. Up to the 20th March the members and friends of that party had subscribed £18,000 for the three purposes of National Defence, care of wounded, and relief of refugees. In the latest list advertised, the proportion of contributions stands as follows: for National Defence £2,800, for the wounded £500, for refugees £13.

The enthusiasm of Armenians to join the fighting forces continues everywhere. The undergraduate strength of Oxford and Cambridge may be reduced to half through the medium of the Officers' Training Corps and the calls of Lord Kitchener, but Etchmiadzin has gone one better. All the students of the higher grades of the Academy there have left their studies and joined the ranks of the irregular Armenian volunteers under Antranig and others, fighting with the Russian forces against the Turks. It is a long cry from Etchmiadzin to Rangoon, and the following communication, received by us, will show that the spirit prevailing at Etchmiadzin is reflected in the far flung colony of Burma:—



"Although the number of Armenians in Rangoon is very small, yet the young men have not been slow in forming a company of volunteers, should their services at any time be required. Three of them have joined the Burma contingent and are already at the front (British army). There are also eight others who are willing to render their services to the Russian army in Armenia. These young men are prepared, and are waiting the opportunity for their turn."

Decorations, too, have come in the way of the Armenians as of the Russians where they have been well earned. We have already referred to the bestowals of the Cross of St. George in several instances. Here is another. Three majors of the Armenian army operating in Persia have been honoured by the Czar of Russia with the fourth class of that Order. The General Commanding introduced these officers, Sembat Boroyan, Avetis Besian and Kevork Michailovitch, with the words, "These are the majors of the Armenian army who have bravely fulfilled the duty imposed on them." The Grand Duke, who presented the decorations, thanked them on behalf of the Czar for their deeds of bravery, and urged them to fight with courage for the fatherland. One of the majors replied that Armenians would fight fearlessly against the Turks and shed their blood for the fatherland.

It is with deep sorrow that we have to record the death on the battlefield in France of Mr. W. G. C. Gladstone, M.P., the grandson of the "Grand Old Man," the greatest of Armenia's champions. As a conference of Armenians was being held at the time in London, the following expression of sympathy was at once sent to the head of the family:—

To THE RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT GLADSTONE,  
9, BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.

We, the representatives of the Armenian Committees of London, Manchester, Paris and Brussels, assembled to confer on the subject of our national cause, consider it our duty to send you, and to all the members of your illustrious family, the expression of our respectful and heartfelt condolences upon the cruel loss that you have suffered in the person of Mr. W. G. C. Gladstone, M.P., who has gloriously fallen in fighting for the cause of liberty, a cause which was magnificently defended by his immortal grandfather, the great William Gladstone, whose name will be eternally dear to the Armenian people.

We ask you to accept the assurance of our respectful sympathy.

On behalf of the assembled

Armenian Committees of Europe,

G. M. GREGORY, V.D.,

ARCHAG TCHOBANIAN,

Secretary.

Lieut.-Colonel,

President.

April 21st, 1915.

The following reply has been received as we go to press:—"We thank the representatives of the Armenian Committees most gratefully for their sympathy expressed in words which go to our hearts.

I am, very truly yours,

GLADSTONE.

28-5-15."

The following is a translation of a correspondence that has passed between Mr. Archag Tchobanian, during his stay in London, and the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, which will interest our readers:—

To M. JEAN GOUT,

*Director of Affairs of the Levant,*

*Under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

QUAI D'ORSAY, PARIS.

SIR,

I and my compatriots learn with deep sorrow the news of the loss of the *Bouvet* and her entire crew. Those brave French sailors, who have died fighting against the odious Turkish tyranny, will be mourned by all Armenians, and their memory will be doubly dear and sacred to our nation, because they have died for the glory of France and for the freedom of the East.

I would ask of you the favour of your conveying to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the respectful sympathies of the Armenian colony of London in this glorified sorrow which has befallen the French Navy.

Pray accept, Sir, the assurance of our most devoted sentiments.

ARCHAG TCHOBANIAN.

London, *March 20th*, 1915.

To M. A. TCHOBANIAN.

PARIS. *April 8th*, 1915.

SIR,

I have conveyed to his Excellency, M. Delcassé the sympathetic sentiments which you and your compatriots have expressed at the news of the loss of the *Bouvet* and her crew.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs is touched by them, and begs you to convey to the Armenian colony his thanks for this proof of their sympathy.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my sincerest regards and best thanks.

JEAN GOUT.



## Russia and Armenia.

### The Orange Book.

(Continued from page 322.)

#### II.

It was clear from the diplomatic correspondence we published in the last issue of *Ararat* that the Entente Powers had, in the first place, agreed together on a common plan of action in regard to the Armenian Question, and, on the proposal of Russia, were to take the initiative of presenting such plan of action for the joint consideration of the Powers.

#### PROJECT TO BE DISCUSSED BY ENTENTE POWERS.

In accordance with this understanding, we find in document No. 32 of the Orange Book a telegram dated May 24th (O.S.), 1913, from the Russian Foreign Office to the Russian Ambassadors in Paris, London, Berlin, Vienna and Rome, to the following effect:—

“It has been rendered indispensable to enter, without delay, into deliberations over the necessary reforms which would be competent to bring tranquility into the provinces inhabited by Armenians.

“Russia, as the Power contiguous to Turkey and having within the Caucasus a large number of Armenians, is, in a greater measure than other Powers, interested in the preservation of peace and tranquility in those regions.

“In consequence it should be considered whether the time is not ripe to deliberate on the bases of these reforms and on the means for their realisation.

“On its part, the Imperial Government deems it most expedient that the project of 1895 should be adopted as a solid basis for the present deliberations, in order that it might be completed and brought up to date with recent requirements.

“Be good enough to communicate this confidentially to the Government to which you are accredited, and propose that it should, without delay, issue instructions for deliberations on these lines to its Ambassador in Constantinople, who stands on a nearer footing than others with regard to local conditions.”

On May 24th–June 6th the British, and on May 26th–June 8th the French Governments gave their consent to the above Russian proposal.

No. 36 in the volume is a telegram dated May 27th–June 9th from M. de Giers, Russian Ambassador in Constantinople to M. Sazonoff, Minister for Foreign Affairs, which runs as follows:—

“Have been in conversation with British and French Ambassadors to instruct the commission, formed of the members of the Triple Entente Embassies, one from each, to draw up a project of reforms, taking for its basis the Law of 1880, elaborated by the International Commission for the provinces, the project of reforms of 1895, and the recent Law of the provinces of 1913. After the preparation of the said project, and of its approval by us, we will confidentially propose it to the Powers.”

#### TRIPLE ALLIANCE OBSTRUCTIONS.

On May 28th–June 10th the Austrian and German, and on May 30th–June 12th, 1913, the Italian, Governments replied to the Circular Note of Russia No. 32 given above. The replies of the Triple Alliance Powers are similar, that of Austria, given as No. 37 in the volume, being:—

“Marquis Pallavicini has received permission to take part in the deliberations regarding reforms in Armenia, together with the Ambassadors of the other Powers, on condition that these reforms would not be detrimental to the integrity of the Ottoman Empire and would not prejudice the prestige and authority of the Sultan. . . .”

No. 39 in the volume is a telegram of May 28th (O.S.), 1913, from M. Sazonoff to M. de Giers declaring in the most explicit terms that his assurance should be given to Turkey that Russia, in raising the question of Armenian reforms, was animated solely with the sincerest of intentions towards Turkey.

No. 40 in the volume is a letter dated May 29th–June 11th, 1913, from the Russian Ambassador in Berlin to M. Sazonoff, and runs as follows:—

“ . . . . I consider it my duty to point out the objections the Foreign Secretary (Germany) has put forward when giving his consent to furnish the German Ambassador in Constantinople with instructions empowering him to enter, without delay, into deliberations with his colleagues for such necessary reforms as would improve the lot of the Armenian population; and also the discontent, or rather the surprise, which your proposition has caused here.

“The Foreign Secretary was evidently disturbed that in taking on itself the initiative in the present question, the Imperial Government should have anticipated the premeditated departure which Germany was about to make.



"In telling me that alarming news has also been received in Berlin regarding the condition of the Armenian provinces in Turkey, the accuracy of which could not always be verified, Jagow observed that the question of reforms appears to him somewhat of a delicate character.

"The Armenians, too, as he said to me, conduct themselves often in a provocative manner; and in addition to this, they only form an insignificant majority of the population. In taking steps, therefore, for their protection, *the Powers should not at the same time forget the interests of the Kurds.*

"Besides, said Jagow to me, the experience of the past forces me to doubt the possibility that the work of the Ambassadors will bring about results that would be fully tangible.

"Notwithstanding these objections, which I did not pass over without reply, the Foreign Secretary promised to instruct the German Ambassador to enter, without delay, into an exchange of views with his colleagues on the Armenian question; but he remarked on this occasion that the Ambassadorial Areopagus ought not, in his opinion, to take the form of an irrevocable tribunal sitting over the Porte, but that to Turkey herself a certain measure of participation ought to be accorded in the preparation of the reform scheme.

"The Armenian question continues to be discussed by the bulk of the German Press which, while denouncing Russia for her selfish aims, the motives of which are the occupation of the adjacent Turkish provinces, an occupation which practically threatens to bring under Russian domination the whole of Asia Minor, advises Europe to seriously occupy itself with the necessary reforms, but also at the same time to take measures to ensure the carrying out of the reforms to the letter."

No. 43 in the volume is a telegram dated May 30th-June 12th, 1913, from M. de Giers to M. Sazonoff saying that the Ambassadors of the Triple Alliance have been instructed to take part in the deliberations on two conditions: (1) the inviolability of the sovereign rights of the Sultan; and (2) the participation of the Turkish representative at the deliberations over the reforms.

In connection with the above, we find under document No. 44 a circular telegram dated May 30th-June 12th, 1913, from M. Sazonoff to the Russian Ambassadors in France, England, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Turkey in the following terms:—

"I drew the attention of the German Ambassador to the extreme undesirability of suggesting that a representative of Turkey should participate in the proposed deliberations of the Ambassadors in Constantinople. The condition in the Armenian provinces is such that no time must be lost. The news of the participation of Turkey's representative would only cause deep disappointment among the Armenians; while our initiative, which

is free from selfish motives, exclusively touches the problems affecting pacification. We reckon that, from this aspect, all the Powers are solid; and that the reforms that would be elaborated by them in unison would certainly have a desirable influence upon the Turkish Government."

No. 47 in the volume is a telegram dated 3/16th June, 1913, from M. de Giers to M. Sazonoff to the effect that:—

"The German Orientalist, Dr. Lepsius, visited the Armenian Patriarch and assured him that in the German leading circles most sincere sympathy is evinced towards the Armenians. According to the injunctions of his Government, Lepsius is proceeding to Armenia."

#### EMBASSIES' COMMISSION DELIBERATE.

No. 48 is a telegram, dated 4/17th June, 1913, from M. de Giers to M. Sazonoff, informing him that he has instructed the First Dragoon of the Embassy to elaborate the preliminary project of reforms for Armenia, on the basis of the projects of 1880 and 1895.

No. 50 in the volume is a despatch dated 8/21st June, 1913, from M. de Giers to M. Sazonoff, wherein he gives an account of the elaboration of the preliminary project, and expresses the unanimity in the matter of the French and the British Embassies. M. de Giers also encloses in this despatch a copy of the preliminary project which is composed of 22 Articles. This project is based exclusively on the following sources:—

- (1) The Memorandum drawn up by the Ambassadors of France, England, and Russia in Constantinople on reforms in Armenia (March-April, 1895).
- (2) The Project of Administrative Reforms to be introduced in the Armenian provinces, elaborated by the Ambassadors of France, Great Britain and Russia in Constantinople (March-April, 1895).
- (3) The Decree on the Reforms in Armenia, promulgated by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, dated October 20th, 1895.
- (4) The Project of the Law of the vilayets of European Turkey of 11th-23rd August, 1880, elaborated by the European Commission.
- (5) The Law of the Vilayets of 1913; and
- (6) The Protocols and Regulations relating to the Lebanon.

#### TURKEY DRAGGED INTO THE CONFERENCE.

The next document in the volume is a telegram, dated 8/21st June, 1913, from the Russian Ambassador in Berlin to M. Sazonoff, informing him that the German Foreign Secretary gives his consent that Turkey should participate in the deliberations on the project for the Armenian reforms.



The following document, No. 53, is a telegram dated 17/30th June, 1913, from M. de Giers to M. Sazonoff, informing him that the Ambassadors of the Great Powers had a meeting that day on the question of the reforms in Armenia. The Ambassadors agreed that the preliminary project, mentioned in document No. 50, should be put to the consideration of the Commission of the representatives of the Embassies, who would commence their deliberations at once and bring them to a finish as soon as possible. At the suggestion of the Austrian and German Ambassadors, it was agreed that the Turkish project should also be submitted to the Commission when it was received by the Ambassadors.

Document No. 54 is a telegram, dated 19th June—2nd July, 1913, from M. de Giers to M. Sazonoff, giving in full detail the Turkish project of reforms. It was a project of reforms for the whole Ottoman Empire, nothing in particular being mentioned in it regarding Armenia. It was proposed that the Empire should be divided into six sectors, of which two sectors were to be allotted to the Eastern provinces, without the definition of any boundaries. M. de Giers expresses his fear that Turkey would manipulate the sectors in such a way that the Armenians would be placed in a minority in each sector. On the whole, therefore, M. de Giers does not give his approval to the Turkish project.

Document No. 55 is a telegram, dated 20th June—3rd July, 1913, from M. de Giers to M. Sazonoff, informing him that the Commission of the delegates of the Embassies on the Armenian question started their work that day at the Austro-Hungarian Embassy at Eni-koi. The representatives of the Triple Alliance refused to enter into a consideration of the Russian project without, in the first place, also studying the latest Turkish proposals concerning the general reforms. The sitting was adjourned in order that the advice of the Ambassadors might be taken. In document No. 56, a telegram dated June 21st—July 4th, 1913, M. de Giers informs M. Sazonoff that the Ambassadors of the Triple Alliance had agreed to the deliberations being started on the basis of the Russian project.

In view of the obstructive attitude of the Triple Alliance Powers on the Armenian question, M. Neratoff, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs sends a circular to the Russian Ambassadors abroad, which appears as No. 57 in the volume and is dated June 25th—July 8th, 1913. M. Neratoff, who is strong and abrupt in his expressions, thus writes :—

“The Imperial Government has more than once drawn the attention of the Great Powers, also that of the Porte, to the close connection existing, according to its views, between the Armenian question and its problems and the Russian management of the Caucasus. The Imperial Government cannot permit the existence of a chronic state of disorder and anarchy which, owing to the proximity of the Turkish frontier, must inevitably react in a most pernicious manner on the adjacent regions of the Caucasus. . . . The inexperience and weakness of the Turkish authorities compel

us to harbour misgivings of possible occurrences, regarding which the Imperial Government could in no case remain an indifferent onlooker.

“Under such circumstances a rapid and, as far as possible, a perfect agreement between the Powers would be the only means of preventing the inevitably threatening danger of the complications reaching a head.”

The next day the German Ambassador in St. Petersburg, on behalf of his Government, hands to Russia, a note which appears in the volume of the Orange Book as No. 58 :—

“According to the Russian project submitted to the Council of the Ambassadors in Constantinople, the six Armenian provinces are to be united under the authority of a Governor-General appointed by the Sultan. The Governor-General must be a Christian or a Moslem, or what is considered preferable, a European. The above six provinces must form one province scarcely distinguishable, so far as military and administrative relations are concerned, from the Ottoman Empire. The officials and judges must be appointed by the Governor-General. The recruiting must take place exclusively in Armenia, and in peace time such forces must not be available for duties outside Armenia.

“This project, in the eyes of the Imperial Government, travels far from the programme of 1895, and even from the Statute regarding Lebanon. If this project be realised, then from one half of Anatolia would be created an Armenia, which would preserve only a weak connection with Turkey under the sovereignty of the Sultan. It would be difficult to refuse to other parts of Turkey what is proposed to be granted to Armenia. Such a situation would in fact bring us to the beginning of the partition of Turkey, which the Imperial Government would unconditionally strive to avoid.

“In pointing out these dangers, the Imperial German Government expresses a desire that in this question the views of Turkey should also be taken into consideration.”

#### GERMAN OBJECTIONS AND RUSSIA'S ATTITUDE.

The activity of M. de Giers in favour of Armenian reforms, and in keeping with the interests of the Armenian people, gradually becomes more pronounced. In No. 59 of the volume we find a long despatch dated July 25th—August 7th, 1913, from M. Sazonoff to the Russian Ambassador in Berlin, pointing out that from the despatch of M. de Giers he learns that the representatives of the Triple Alliance disagree with the Russian project on two points :—

“These two points of our project are, (1) the formation of one Armenian province, and (2) the appointment of the Governor-General with the consent of the Great Powers.



"As to the second point, I find M. de Giers's remarks absolutely just, that any weakening on this point would be equivalent to the complete renunciation of all reforms in Armenia; in fact, the participation of Europe in the appointment of the Governor-General appears the only means for establishing a guarantee of the practical execution of reforms, in which Russia, in view of her position with relation to the Armenian people, appears to be the Power most interested. In consequence, it is impossible that we should recede in any way from the above fundamental principle."

M. Sazonoff then says that, in the extreme event, he would agree to the dividing of the Armenian provinces into two sectors on certain conditions.

#### GERMAN AGITATORS AT WORK.

No. 61 in the volume is a long telegram, dated 3/16th August, 1913, from M. de Giers to M. Sazonoff, of which the following portion is of interest:—

"According to information from most trustworthy sources, the German agitator Lepsius has stated to the Armenians that he is fully authorised by the German Embassy to make the following propositions, which would appear to be a compromise between the Russian and Turkish projects of reforms: Armenia to be divided into two sectors, the organisation of the vilayets being preserved; in the first sector are to be included Trebizond, Sivas, Erzeroum, and in the second sector, Kharput, Bitlis and Diarbekir. Germany makes no further objections to the appointment, with the consent of the Powers, of two European Inspectors-General for the sectors. She also agrees to bring about equality between the Christians and the Mussulmans. . . . Lepsius has also advised the summoning of Boghos Nubar Pasha to Constantinople in order to finish with the Armenian question as soon as possible, as Russia, he declares, is inclined to act against the interests of the Armenians. . . ."

#### SAZONOFF'S FIRMNESS AND GERMAN STOLIDITY.

The patience of M. Sazonoff gives signs of approaching the point of exhaustion in view of Germany's attitude in the Armenian question, as a perusal of his despatch, No. 62 in the volume, dated August 6/19th, 1913, to the Russian Ambassador in Berlin, would seem to show:—

"I consider it most desirable that you should not omit the opportunity of pointing out to the German Government our unweakening interest in the Armenian question, which must be removed from the possibility of being rendered abortive.

"In view of this, please avail yourself of the first opportunity of conversing with M. Zimmerman in the sense of my letter of July 25th, drawing his attention to the point that we cannot recede from the principles therein laid down, nor can we allow the

matter to hang on, and so impress the Porte with the idea that all will end merely in words, and that no serious insistence will be made by us in our demands.

"False representations will after all only make the question more acute."

The German Foreign Office would appear to have been in no way disturbed by the sharp and resolute tone of Russia, as seems evident from document No. 63, a telegram dated 9/22nd August, 1913, from the Russian Ambassador in Berlin to M. Sazonoff:—

"I conversed in clear terms with the Foreign Secretary on the Armenian question in the spirit of your Excellency's letter of July 25th. The Foreign Secretary's replies constituted merely general objections, which pointed to the danger of making a beginning in the partition of Asiatic Turkey, a step which Germany is endeavouring to avoid; he also drew attention to the fact that in the centres which are considered more Armenian, the Armenians do not exceed 40 per cent. of the entire population, and they are therefore everywhere in a minority. He added that he desires to come to an agreement, and would like to have from me a written exposition of the arguments brought forward to support our project, for, as matters stand, there are insufficient data to enable him to fathom the question."

#### BRITISH ACTION.

Under document No. 64 in the volume, dated 14/27th August, 1913, we find M. de Giers bringing to the notice of M. Sazonoff certain action taken by the British Foreign Office in the matter of the Armenian question. M. de Giers writes thus:—

"According to information communicated to me, the British Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in handing over to the Turkish Ambassador in London a list of crimes committed in Armenia, drew his attention to the danger for Turkey and her Eastern provinces from a repetition of similar deplorable deeds, which prove the absence of tranquility and security in those regions, and are thus liable to give cause for an indirect interference. Inclining, according to his words, to the preservation of the inviolability of the Asiatic possessions of the Turkish Empire, the Government of Great Britain advises the Porte to make immediate inquiries and to punish the guilty parties.

"On the receipt of the report of Tewfik Pasha, the Grand Vizier made the above list over to the Ministries of the Interior, of Justice and of War, giving at the same time instructions that everything possible should be done for the satisfaction of the desire of England, and that he should be supplied with information of the result of the inquiries, so that he might communicate it to the British Government."

(To be continued.)



## Armenia's True Interests and Sympathies in the Great War.

By F. R. SCATCHERD.

(Miss Scatcherd's interest in the countries of the Near East is well known, and many a personal and unselfish effort, which only a woman can exercise in the political field, has been brought to bear by her on current questions, of which the general public has been ignorant. We were privileged to give her portrait and to reprint an article of hers on "The Armenian Question" in *Ararat* of April, 1914. We reproduce now a convincing article from her pen which has appeared in the pages of the current number of *The Asiatic Review*.—EDITOR, *Ararat*.)

### I.

#### ARMENIA AND BELGIUM: A PARALLEL CASE.

These two countries, so widely separated from each other by their past history and geographical position—the one in Asia, the other in Europe—would, at first sight, seem to have nothing in common, and formerly no one would have dreamed of connecting them. Now, since the European War, their fate has become so similar that it is almost as common for those who are acquainted with its history to speak of Armenia as "the Belgium of Asia" as it is for the world to characterise the Germans as "the Turks of Europe."

Humanity is proud of brave little Belgium's heroic stand against overwhelming odds. England, especially, is grateful to the gallant Belgians for having, by several weeks at least, checked the German advance, and all vie with each other in expressing, with the utmost generosity, their indebtedness to Belgium, well realising that there are some debts that can never be repaid; while statesmen and peoples, platform and press, have borne ungrudging testimony to the services thus nobly rendered to the sacred cause of freedom.

This is as it ought to be. Why, then, should there exist an apparent conspiracy of silence with regard to similar services rendered by that martyr of the ages, Armenia, which, not for a few weeks, or months, or even years, but for centuries, bore unflinchingly the onslaughts of the barbarian hordes from Central Asia, standing as she did between them and the civilisation of the Greeks?

Responsible ministers rarely deign to utter the name of Armenia. When a leading Statesman was speaking about the small nationalities, Armenia was not even mentioned. When he alluded to the famous cynical declaration of Bismarck that the Armenian question was not worth the bones of a single Pomeranian grenadier, in the report of his speech the word "Armenian" was changed into "Bulgarian."

And the press follows the platform. Rarely does one come across articles, much less leaders, dealing with this crying question, for it was as vanguards of civilisation that the Armenians received the first staggering blow, acting for ages as a barrier that held back the devastating hordes of Asiatic barbarians, and keeping the torch of civilisation ever burning with much of pristine religious purity. Small wonder that eventually they broke down, and that Armenia herself became the victim, but for whose age-long sufferings the ethnological and religious problems of Europe might have proved vastly more complicated even than we find them to-day.

But there is little need of referring to the past history of Armenia; for turning to our own day and the present war, we find her still to the fore in contributing her contingent to the forces of civilisation. The Eastern theatre of the Turkish war is that same Armenian soil, soaked with blood for centuries, while Europe looked on with the passivity bred of indifference to all but vested interests and diplomatic juggling—a passivity for which it is not impossible that a Nemesis in Europe is to-day enforcing righteous retribution.

It must not be imagined that the Turk and the Kurd were more merciful than were "the Turks of the West" in Belgium. And at this moment Armenia is laid waste, women and children are carried away, and the men who have not made good their escape are slaughtered, or dragged into the Turkish army, or driven out of the country, so that a hundred thousand refugees are to be found in Tiflis and the neighbourhood hopelessly destitute.

### II.

#### WHAT ARMENIA IS DOING FOR THE ALLIES.

Armenia deserves more sympathy and consideration than she is receiving, not only as a theatre of Turkish cruelty and devastation, but also because the Armenians, as a nation, are taking an active part on the side of the Allies in the present war, and are fighting, not only against the Turks in the East, but also against the Turks of the West.

There are actually some 80,000 Armenians in the ranks of the Russian army in Poland, and 40,000 in that of the Caucasus. There are besides these about 10,000 Armenian volunteers fighting in conjunction with the Russian army in Asia Minor. Other Armenians are flocking from all over the world with the set purpose of driving from their country the unregenerate Turks who have so long defaced that fair and otherwise fertile land.

The whole burden of the equipment and upkeep of this volunteer army falls upon the Armenian community, which hopes to increase its numbers to 25,000 in the spring and early summer. To this heavy expenditure must be added the maintenance of the refugees at a cost of £45,000 per month. But the Armenians are gladly making these colossal sacrifices, cheered as they are by the growing conviction that the hour of their deliverance is drawing nearer and nearer. Never-



theless, they are keenly disappointed at what seems like a conspiracy of silence, especially on the part of England, who formerly took so much interest in Armenia on account of the important rôle hitherto played by her in the Eastern Question. And it must be conceded that England, in her attempts to bolster up Turkey, has almost always sacrificed Armenia to Turkish interests on the plea that by the *Cyprus Convention* of 1878 Armenia would also come in for her share of the benefits brought about by Turkish reform. Yet Cyprus, England's pledge on behalf of Armenia, was annexed, while all recognition of the debt due to Armenia was ignored, and continues to be so ignored even down to the present moment.

England and the Allies are fighting nobly and heroically in support of the inviolability of treaties, and it can scarcely need pointing out that the essential sacredness of treaties and promises is not lessened because they happen to relate to Armenia instead of to Belgium. Hitherto England's task with regard to Armenia has been complicated by the desire to preserve the friendship of Turkey and the goodwill of Russia. To have done justice to Armenia might have necessitated going to war on her behalf, which Armenia would neither have expected nor desired. But since Turkey has entered the European conflict, all these factors have changed, and England has now the opportunity, which has never before presented itself, of insuring full, if tardy, justice to long-suffering Armenia, by furthering, to the best of her capacity, all that country's righteous and legitimate aspirations. Nor need she fear to be thwarted in this direction by Russia, while Germany, it is to be hoped, will soon be powerless to veto any just demands made by the Powers for themselves or for others.

### III.

#### WHAT THE ALLIES MUST DO FOR ARMENIA.

What, then, can England and her Allies do for Armenia? What does Armenia herself desire? An appeal to the leading Armenians in London has elicited this unanimous statement. They all agree in the belief that the only permanent solution of the Armenian question lies in the granting of some form of Home Rule, some form of autonomy to Armenia, either under the guarantee of the Powers, or of the Entente Powers, or of one of them. And they plead for this, not only for themselves, but for the country, for Armenia, as whoever lives in Armenia will benefit equally, irrespective of race or of religion. It goes without saying that the most numerous race, and the one most apt for civilisation, will benefit most, and at present these advantages lie with the Armenians. But except for this natural outcome of the numerical and intellectual differences of the races, they desire nothing in the shape of special privileges, nothing in which all the inhabitants of the country shall not equally participate. Below is given a table of the comparative numbers of the various races composing the population of the six *vilayets* or provinces of Turkish Armenia, for which reforms were demanded last year. These statistics were compiled recently by the Armenian Patriarchate at Constantinople.

	Population.	Per Cent.
Turks .. .. .	666,000 ..	25·4
Kurds .. .. .	424,000 ..	16·3
Other Mussulman Races .. ..	88,000 ..	3·4
Armenians .. .. .	1,018,000 ..	38·9
Other Christian Races ( Nestorian, etc. ..	123,000 ..	4·8
165,000 ( Greeks, etc. ..	42,000 ..	1·6
( Kizilbaches ..	140,000 ..	5·3
Other Religions, ( Zazas, etc. ..	77,000 ..	2·9
254,000 ( Yazidis ..	37,000 ..	1·4
	2,615,000 ..	100

The above figures show that the Armenians are by far the most numerous of the races inhabiting the country. Besides this, the Turks, following their usual custom, will emigrate in large numbers, as they always do from territory which passes out of their hands. The Kurds, also, with their innate hatred of any sort of control, will make a great exodus, probably towards Persia, while Armenians will return from all parts of the world, and will thus still further increase the Armenian majority. And is not this a consummation devoutly to be desired by all lovers of justice and humanity? This land belonged to the Armenian people six or seven centuries before the Christian era. It is strewn with remains of Armenian civilisation and culture—mountains and rivers, towns and villages, still bearing Armenian names and traces, while the Turks and Kurds cannot show a vestige of any work productive of lasting benefit to the country.

The question, however, may be asked: "Why have we this sudden demand for autonomy?" The Armenians only last year issued a pamphlet in which it was definitely stated that autonomy or independence was not asked for. The sole demand made was for some "reasonable security for life, honour, and property." The answer to this query is clear and cogent.

Armenia has always been too much the patient Griselda among the nations. She has ever contended herself with the *minimum* in her demands, and has never been accorded anything within measureable distance of that *minimum*. With a sweet reasonableness, which merited more consideration from the European Powers, she always recognised the obstacles in their path, and hence the moderation of her requests. Now, circumstances have changed radically, and the insuperable difficulties of the past promise speedily to disappear. Last year the Powers had to face the Turkish Government, backed by Germany. Now, both will probably soon cease to be factors wherewith to reckon, and Russia will offer no objection to the granting of autonomy to Armenia. She is already helping the Armenians, and the Russian Government is credited with entertaining the same intention towards Armenia as towards Poland—namely, that of endowing both with some form of self-government. Surely, now, when the time comes, England will rise to the occasion and take the initiative in



securing a permanent arrangement by which Armenia shall be insured a free and prosperous future. Thus alone can England, in some measure, make atonement for her acquiescence in the unutterable miseries and wrongs inflicted upon a martyred people—an acquiescence mainly due to a desire to retain the friendship of their Turkish tormentors, and which has signally failed to secure even this questionable advantage.

## A Contemporary Armenian Poet and Author.

We have all heard of Archag Tchobanian as a leading Armenian writer of the present day, and one who is intimately connected with many national committees for the propaganda of the Armenian question, but few of us know his life history and the amount of work he has accomplished for our nation. Some of us, too, knew him by a casual glance at his portrait of days gone by. But Mr. Tchobanian is among us in London just now, and we have heard him speak for Armenia. It is the personal touch, and not hearsay, that enhances knowledge, and for the benefit of those of our readers who have not been privileged to see and hear him, we give a short account of his life, and reproduce in this issue a striking likeness of him taken specially for *Ararat*, so that we might grasp his individuality as he appears to us *to-day*.

Born forty-three years ago in Constantinople, without brother or sister, and left motherless at an early age, he was to a great extent left to his own devices and, being naturally of a dreamy and sensitive temperament, he found happiness in companionship with nature, which brought to the surface his artistic and poetical gifts lying latent within him. He was educated at the Central Armenian College at Galata, the head of which at the time was Professor Tcheraz, and his writings in prose and poetry may be traced back to the early days of his youth in this institution.

Tchobanian, from early life, was deeply impressed and influenced by French literature, and late in 1893 went to Paris to study French life, literature and art in its true environment. After a year's stay in the French capital he returned to Constantinople and found himself installed in the Chair of the History of Literature in his old College at Galata. From his predilections for all that was French in literature he distinctly absorbed much that was Gallic, especially in his poetical rhythm, etc., but his thoughts have ever remained Eastern, of an Orient without its fatalism. And though he may lack the buoyancy of the West, his optimism pierces through the shadows to lay bare the bright sunlight on the other side, a characteristic which runs through his works, and may be described as one inherent in the Armenian race.



ARCHAG TCHOBANIAN,

Poet and Author.

Born 1872.



In addition to his literary labours, Mr. Tchobanian has devoted much of his time in propaganda on behalf of his sorely persecuted race. His tenure of the Professorship at his old College was of short duration, and in 1895, when the terrors of Abdul Hamid commenced, he proceeded to Paris to enlighten the French nation and Western Europe on the Armenian cause and to enlist their sympathies. This he did by numerous articles in the papers, by trustworthy documentary evidence, and by public lectures in Paris and the provincial towns, as well as in Switzerland. His principal desire, however, was to rouse the sympathies of the Western nations by instilling into them the intellectual worth of the Armenian people through their history and their artistic and literary gifts; and this he strove to accomplish, with much success, by means of lectures, illustrated by the poetical, architectural and sculptural wealth of his race.

To enter in detail into the literary productions of Mr. Tchobanian would take up more space than we can allot at present. He has contributed to most of the important Armenian reviews; he founded the fortnightly literary review *Dsaghig*, and also the literary review *Anahid*; he published in French the *Massacres in Armenia*, which created a storm of indignation among the French people who had been in ignorance of the facts, and he also published a French translation of Aghassi's *History of Zeitoun*. In the task of popularising Armenian songs and poems he has done solid work, notably in his work on the Armenian Troubadours, or wandering minstrels, published in 1906. His original writings in Armenian and in French are too numerous to mention, but we may draw attention to his latest in French, *La Vie et le Rêve*; in fact it is largely due to his efforts that there has been an awakening in France on matters connected with Armenia. It is a misfortune that England, which needs more enlightenment on the Armenian race than any other country, has had placed before it so meagre a share of Armenian culture. Last year saw, in an English translation, one of Mr. Tchobanian's able lectures in Paris, under the title of *The People of Armenia*, and it is hoped that the small beginning thus made will extend to a wider field of Armenian culture for the benefit of the English people, in which Mr. Tchobanian's influence would undoubtedly figure largely.

We will conclude this concise account of our accomplished poet and author by short quotations from one or two foreign writers.

Emile Verhaeren says of him:—"You have made your race so thoroughly your own that one hears an entire people speak, love, suffer, agonise even, through the medium of your voice." A recent writer in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, who compares him to Edgar Allan Poe, says:—"In Tchobanian there is no clash of exuberance, his spirit flows like a slow stream with few tributaries and a climatic finish of serene surface horizon. . . . He brings exquisite fancy into virility of form, and employs all phases of modernity as vehicles of expression, but is neither chaotic nor ultimate. . . ." The same writer says again:—"He loves sombre colours and splendour, and the



music of words both in prose and poetry, which are the natural attributes of the Armenian race, as well as the plethora of a subjected and subjective mind in which emotion is plastic and the ultimate revealed only through an insistent dogma of reiterated optimism."

Mr. Tchobanian has barely reached the prime of life and has already done exceptional work. We look forward to greater things yet from his marvellous pen and his giant poetic powers of imagination and fancy.

## Russian and British Policy towards Armenia.

### ARMENIAN EXPECTATIONS.

The present political situation of Turkey has once again given rise to lively hopes in the minds of the Armenian people as to the solution of the Armenian question. According to the drift of optimism and pessimism by which public minds are vacillated, there outstand three different convictions. One party is convinced as to the annexation of the Armenian provinces of Turkey with those in Russia; the country being thus absorbed in the Russian Empire, the phantom of the Armenian question will then disappear so far as the Armenian people are concerned. The second argue for an autonomous Armenia under the control of Europe, or Russia, in any case free from the sovereignty of Turkey. While the third party, still unawakened from their old slumber, raves of a free Armenia under the nominal sovereignty of the Sultan. It would, however, be a useless effort for any one to attempt to come to a reasonable conclusion as to the possibility of any one of these three arguments leading to realisation without a careful study of the political facts, supported by diplomatic documents, in reference to the Eastern Question in general, and the Armenian question in particular.

The reader of the following pages may perceive what in fact the Armenian question is, what the attitude of British, and Russian, diplomacy have been in the case, why it ought to be solved from the point of view of traditional British policy, and how it is likely to be ended.

### THE POLICY OF RUSSIA, PRUSSIA AND ENGLAND.

The misrule of the Turkish Government ever since its origin, has been a recognised fact in the history of Europe. As far back as the eighteenth century there were three distinct policies among the great Powers with regard to the destiny of the Turkish Empire. The first

is that of Russia, who seems to have disavowed her belief altogether in the improvement of Turkey, and she has openly acted in the direction of relieving the state of the Christian subjects of the Sultan either by conquering territories or by becoming the initiator for the deliverance of various Christian races from the yoke of Turkey; although her real motive was always considered by Europe as a desire for conquest.

The second is that of the Kings of Prussia, subsequently the Germanic Powers, who have always opposed the occupation of Turkish territories by any other Power. They have proved themselves against any reform for the Christian subjects of Turkey. They have hindered whenever there was a question of the emancipation of the Balkan races into autonomous States, and at all times they were partisans to a misgoverned Turkey. The explanation of this policy evidently lies in the fact that Prussia, in view of the impossibility to conquer Turkey by force of arms, owing to her geographical position, had a far-seeing policy of over-ruling her economically and diplomatically, as, indeed, the results of the last 35 years prove.

The third is the policy of England. England's traditional policy toward Turkey has branded that Government as a barbarous Power, beyond the pale of civilisation, and which it is necessary to keep in decent order by the strong arm of coercion. Yet in view of the real facts it appears that England, like Prussia, sought for the maintenance of the Turkish Empire; she however, unlike Prussia, has earnestly been in favour of the raising up of the oppressed Christian subjects of the Sultan, and until Beaconsfield's rule she was not in any way partisan to a misgoverned Turkey, but a vain champion for a reformed, strong Ottoman Empire. The similarity of the principles, in regard to the territorial integrity of Turkey, had, apparently, made England more than once play into the hands of others against Russia.

It was on a like occasion when Edmund Burke, the great statesman and philosopher, delivered a speech in Parliament in the year 1791 on a proposal by Pitt to join Turkey and Prussia in compelling Russia to return to the Sultan territory which she had extorted from him in the Crimea.

"As in all probability," said Burke, "this will be the last time I shall ever speak upon a political question in this House, I beg leave to intrude upon its patience a few minutes. It may arise from the prejudice of an old man that I cannot help feeling an alarm at any new principles of policy; but since I have sat in this House, I solemnly declare I have never heard anything so new as what I have heard advanced this evening. The confidence claimed by His Majesty's Ministers is new. The principle of alliance (with Turkey), and the doctrine drawn from thence, are entirely new. . . . I have never before heard it held forth that the Turkish Empire was ever considered as any part of the balance of power in Europe. They have nothing to do with European power. They consider themselves as wholly Asiatic. . . . They despise and condemn all Christian Princes as infidels, and



only wish to subdue and exterminate them and their people. What have these worse than savages to do with the Powers of Europe but to spread war, destruction, and pestilence among them? The Ministers and the policy which shall give these people any weight in Europe will deserve all the bans and curses of posterity. All that is holy in religion, all that is moral and humane, demands an abhorrence of everything which tends to extend the power of that cruel and wasteful Empire. Any Christian Power is to be preferred to these destructive savages. . . . Russia is our natural ally, and the most useful ally we have in a commercial sense."

The proposal to join Turkey and Prussia in an attack on Russia was denounced by Fox on the same lines in a powerful speech:—

" . . . . It is a conduct so unreasonable, so unjust, so insolent as I have never before witnessed. . . . It would be madness in us to show the most lively jealousy of the growing power of Russia in the Black Sea. But it might be said that if the Russians became masters in the Black Sea, they would soon appear in the Mediterranean. It is indifferent to me if they did, for then there would be three Powers in that sea, and as the two former were allies it was probable we might be assisted by the third—Russia."

One of the most curious features of the debate on the proposal in both Houses of Parliament was the hearty denunciation of the conduct of Prussia as being eager to sacrifice the freedom and happiness of the Christians of Turkey to her own sordid ends.\* So, the world must not surmise it a fresh policy, but only a true continuation when in 1897, over 100 years after such a denunciation by the British Parliament, the present King of Prussia, Emperor William II, went to Constantinople and cordially embraced the Great Murderer, Sultan Hamid, whose hands were still wet with the blood of a hundred thousand massacred Christian Armenian old men, women and children.

It is worthy of contemplating on the typical expression of another great statesman, Lord Holland, who was as far removed as most Englishmen from a fanatical or intolerant temper, yet he did not hesitate to speak as follows:—

"The anti-social race which now enjoys the throne of the Constantines considers itself naturally at war with every nation with which it has not entered into a formal treaty of peace. Mr. Addison, who was not only a philosopher but one of the wisest and best men on the face of the earth, remarked upon the bad effect of the numerous journalists in this country, and went on to say that, though there was no absurdity to which people, by this itch for talking and writing politics, might not be brought, he did not believe it possible that there could be persons in England who could think that we were interested in the prosperity of the Ottoman Empire. . . . Almost every man who had held office

and had authority, stated that the opinion of Lord Chatham was that we should never have any kind of connection whatever with the Ottoman Porte. . . . In 1772 our allies, the Russians, sent a great fleet into the Mediterranean for the purpose of overpowering the Turks. What was the policy of this country? To assist the Russian navy. That fleet was refitted in our harbours, and, with the munitions and implements which it received from us, burnt a Turkish town and fleet, and continued cruising in the Archipelago for no less than five or six years."

#### LORD PALMERSTON'S DREAM.—DISTRUST OF RUSSIA.

But through the inspiration of Jewish influence into the public and political life of England a dislike and distrust grew up towards Russia, and gradually rose to a bitter point during Disraeli's rule.

Lord Aberdeen, who was one of the most experienced Foreign Secretaries that England has ever had, on the eve of the Crimean War, and from the responsible position of Prime Minister of England, deliberately put on record the following opinion:—

"Notwithstanding the favourable opinion entertained by many, it is difficult to believe in the improvement of the Turks. It is true that under the pressure of the moment benevolent decrees may be issued; but these, except under the eye of some foreign minister, are entirely neglected. Their whole system is radically vicious and inhuman. I do not refer to fables which may be invented at St. Petersburg (in answer to Lord Palmerston) but to numerous despatches of Lord Stratford himself (British Ambassador at Constantinople), and of our own consuls, who describe a frightful picture of lawless oppression and cruelty. This is so true that if the war should continue, and the Turkish armies meet with disaster, we may expect to see the Christian populations of the Empire rise against their oppressors; and in such a case it would scarcely be proposed to employ the force in the Levant to assist in compelling their return under a Moham-medan yoke."\*

Lord Aberdeen, who in these words at the same time represented the views of Queen Victoria and Prince Consort, was, however, hampered in his policy by Lord Palmerston, Parliament, and the Press. This was the first time England expressed a general hostility against Russia on the question of the territorial integrity of Turkey. The extent of the Prince Consort's dislike to this anti-Russian British policy is evident from a letter written by him to Baron Stockmar on December 23, 1853:—

"The defeat of the Turks at Sinope has made the people furious; it is ascribed to Aberdeen having been bought over by Russia, and Palmerston is the only English minister! . . . One almost fancies oneself in a lunatic asylum."

\* Hansard, vol. xxix (1791), pp. 32—81.

\* "Life of the Prince Consort," vol. ii, p. 528.



Not only the Prime Minister, Lord Aberdeen, but the Prince Consort himself did not escape the same dishonouring imputation, as it is seen from his letter of December 27 :—

“The defeat at Sinope has made the people quite furious. Treachery is the cry, and, guided by a friendly hand, the whole Press has for the last week made ‘a dead set at the Prince.’ . . . My unconstitutional position, correspondence with foreign Courts, dislike to Palmerston, relationship to the Orleans family, interference with the army, etc., are depicted as causes of the decline of the State, the Constitution, and the Nation ; and, indeed, the stupidest trash is babbled to the public.”

So, the Crimean War was waged on the ground that it was in vindication of the public law of Europe against a violation of it by the Emperor Nicholas. As the Prince Consort did not share this view of Napoleon and Palmerston, and feared that the favourable consequence of the Crimean War might foster Turkish misrule, he warned the British Cabinet with a most comprehensive memorandum on the objects and aims of the Crimean War after it had become inevitable. The drift of his policy may be gathered from the following passage :—

“The war ought to be carried on unshackled by obligations to the Porte, and will probably lead, in the peace which must be the object of that war, to the obtaining of arrangements more consonant with the well understood interests of Europe, of Christianity, liberty, and civilisation than the reimposition of the ignorant, barbarian and despotic yoke of the Musulman on the most fertile and favoured portion of Europe.” \*

It clearly appears by this that the original author of the *bag and baggage* policy was the Prince Consort and not Gladstone.

Nevertheless, this “ignorant, barbarian and despotic Power” was, after the Crimean War, admitted within the comity of European nations by the Treaty of Paris—one of the greatest blunders, if not one of the greatest crimes in history, according to Dr. Dollinger, a master of the subject ; and an act which Edmund Burke already in 1791 so solemnly had condemned in his prediction in the British Parliament :—

“ . . . The Ministers and the policy which shall give these people any weight in Europe will deserve all the bans and curses of posterity . . . ”

Who can tell, from that day to this, what an immense number of Greeks, Serbs, Bulgars, and, above all, Armenians, have suffered and perished in the hellish Turkish prisons, or how many tens of thousands of Christian men, women and children were in cold blood butchered by the savage hands of the Turks ? Who shall deny that the bans and curses and the desperate cries of those helpless victims did not reach the Throne of God !

\* “Life of the Prince Consort,” vol. ii, pp. 521—533.

Although the Congress of Paris, for fear of the ambitions of Russia, admitted an incorrigibly barbarian Power into the political system of Europe, it was on condition that the Sultan should be put in leading strings and obey the mandates of the Christian Powers.

Whether Lord Palmerston was a sound politician or a dreamer in his policy with reference to the reformation of Turkey, is reflected in some of his striking declarations. In the House of Commons’ debate on the Treaty of Paris in 1856 he said :—

“The maintenance of the Turkish Empire does not necessarily mean the maintenance of the Turkish race in that Empire. . . . We did not engage to maintain in the Turkish Empire this or that race—one dominant party or the other . . . ”

The *Hatt-i-Humaïoun* of 1856 was an outcome of the Treaty of Paris by which the Sultan engaged to put his Christian subjects on a footing of perfect equality in all respects with his Musulman subjects. So Lord Palmerston triumphantly declared in the House of Commons’ debate on the subject at the time :—

“The Treaty of Paris having recorded that that Firman has been issued by the Sultan, it is perfectly plain to my mind that it cannot be revoked—a thing which I hold to be as impossible, almost, morally speaking, as that the sun shall go backwards.”

It requires no comment. Lord Palmerston placed as rigorous a reliance on the promise of the Sultan, as on the stability of the laws of Nature. And to the present time there are still Englishmen of high intellect who, like Lord Palmerston, continue to remain in ignorance with respect to the fact that no Sultan would, nor could, put his Christian subjects on a footing of equality with the Musulmans. For, Turkey is a theocracy, and its politics are based on the unchangeable dogmas of a religious law which forbids *absolutely* and *eternally* the equality of the Christians with the Musulmans. It seems impossible to believe that Lord Palmerston was ignorant of the fact of the constitutional structure of the Turkish Empire ; but it is clear enough that he had one great object in his mind—not to let the Turkish Empire be swallowed up by Russia, but make of it a new Empire by raising the lowered Christian elements to the arena of co-operation in the ruling political life of the Kingdom. His words above, as well as the following speech in Parliament, leaves no doubt of his political aim :—

“Hitherto the Sultan has been like a person with but one leg to stand on, and but one arm to defend himself ; for one-half of his subjects have had no interest in maintaining his empire, and have been precluded from all participation in its defence. Now, however, if this Firman be but faithfully carried out, all the subjects of the Sultan will have equal rights, and will equally contribute to the defence of the empire.” \*

\* Hansard, Third Series, vol. cxlii, pp. 125—126.



Lord Palmerston, however, was not long in finding out that the Sultan not only preferred to remain with his own one leg and arm, but also was conceiving ways and means of destroying the leg and arm which Lord Palmerston himself so ingeniously wanted to adapt into his body. When he saw that the Sultan began the fulfilment of his *Hatt-i-Humaioun* by the Syrian massacre, he took advantage of the opportunity to give His Majesty a salutary lesson. He took separate action very energetically, got France to join him, and sent a fleet to Syria, with Lord Dufferin as Special Commissioner, to punish the official organisers of the massacres, and to rescue the district of Lebanon from the uncontrolled yoke of the Sultan. Russia volunteered to send a man-of-war to join the Anglo-French fleet as a visible token of sympathy.

He gradually found it impossible to get any fundamental change introduced into the administration of Turkey during the reign of Abdul Medjid who granted the *Hatt-i-Humaioun*, but he had hopes in his successor, and he wrote to the British Ambassador at Constantinople urging some drastic reforms. He recommended the Sultan:—

“To put into execution the system of liberal toleration and progressive internal improvement established by his predecessor on paper . . . But His Majesty must begin by clearing out his harem, dismissing his architects and builders, and turning out his robber ministers.” \*

The Ottoman Constitution and the Armenian local Constitution of 1863, for which so much praise is showered on Midhat Pasha, who is called the Reformer of Turkey, are nothing else but insignificant and deceitful fruits of the famous *Hatt-i-Humaioun*, and the pressing results of Lord Palmerston's moral maxims being continually thundered into the ears of the Sublime Porte.

#### LORD BEACONSFIELD AS PROTECTOR OF TURKEY.

With the appearance of Disraeli in the forefront of British politics an essential change began in the spirit of the traditional policy of England—an antagonism towards Russia, coupled with a certain discouragement of the claims of the Christian subjects of the Sultan for the improvement of their lot, and a marked friendliness towards the Government of the Turks.

Gladstone initiated, on May 4, 1858, a great debate in Parliament on the two Principalities—then under Turkish rule—which now constitute the Kingdom of Roumania. He moved a resolution in favour of the union. In his most eloquent speech, suggesting that the Mohammedan Power in Europe could not be permanently maintained, he advised—as Emperor Nicholas I did six years before—the endowment of its Christian population with practical self-government under the

protection of the Powers, though leaving them under the rule of the Sultan and thus maintaining as long as possible the territorial integrity of Turkey, to prevent a scramble, possibly leading to a great war, on the part of ambitious neighbours. He remarked that he was not surprised that Austria had joined Turkey in opposing the union of the Danubian Principalities:—

“I will not undertake to say that it is convenient to Austria to have freedom in conjunction with prosperity close by her threshold; but that is her fault, not mine.”

Among the many leading statesmen who supported Gladstone's motion was a young member of the Conservative party, Lord Robert Cecil, afterwards Lord Salisbury, who said:—

“The House must consider naturally what would be the fate of those Principalities if the motion of his Right Honourable friend should be rejected . . . and what the probability would be if the strong assistance of Europe were given in favour of the claims of Turkey, *the most oppressive and rapacious of all governments*. As long as Turkey lasted they would be subjected to her rule; and *when Turkey fell, as she ultimately must do*, they would become a prey to some other Powers, who would divide her remains between them. He trusted the House of Commons would show themselves on this occasion to be the supporters of freedom. They had made many efforts and had talked a great deal about propagating the principles which they professed, and of spreading the institutions which they revered, in other countries. . . . There was now an opportunity, which might never recur, of supporting those principles which we revered, of establishing those institutions to which we owed our own happiness, and of securing the freedom and welfare of thousands of our fellow-creatures. That opportunity had been afforded in consequence of a pledge given by ourselves, and if it should be neglected and thrown away, the responsibility would fall upon us, and all would feel that it had been lost by our betrayal and our falsehood.”

Disraeli, who was then the leader of the House of Commons, delivered a speech tending to a pro-Turkish and an anti-Russian policy. Disraeli's anti-Russian sentiment had now become such an overruling factor in British politics that it had the tendency for the first time to make England deviate from her lofty traditional policy in defence of the Christian races under the yoke of the Turks; and Gladstone's motion was defeated, by a majority of 292 against 114. The vote of the House of Commons was a triumph for Austria and Turkey. But this was only the beginning of a worse kind of an apparently pro-Turkish policy, the real motive of which was expressed as being in no way a love for the Turks, but rather the fear of an occupation of Turkish territories either by Russia or Austria.

\* Ashley's "Life of Lord Palmerston," ii, p. 213.



This was a period when we find statesmen acting entirely contrary to their own convictions, and representatives of States traversing the policy of their own Governments—clearly a period of treacherous politics. We see Lord Derby commending the following policy in his speech at King's Lynn in 1864 :—

“ I believe the question of the breaking up of the Turkish Empire to be only a question of time, probably not a very long time. The Turks have played their part in history. They have had their day, and that day is over. *I do not understand*, except it be from the influence of diplomatic traditions, the determination of the elder statesmen to stand by the Turkish rule, whether right or wrong. I think we are making for ourselves enemies of races which will very soon become in Eastern Europe dominant races ; and I think we are keeping back countries by whose improvement we, as the great traders of the world, should be the greatest gainers ; and that we are doing this for no earthly advantage, either present or prospective.”

And yet, Lord Derby two years later, as Secretary for Foreign Affairs in Disraeli's Cabinet, spoke and acted totally contrary to his policy so conscientiously affirmed and so solemnly recommended !

#### THE REVERSING OF ENGLAND'S TRADITIONAL POLICY.

The traditional policy of England, down to the Crimean War, was a friendly understanding with Russia, coupled with diplomatic intervention in the affairs of Turkey in favour of the Christian population ; and when diplomatic intervention failed, material coercion was used. The outward motive of the Crimean War was that Europe was becoming either jealous or uneasy of Russia's claims over Turkey and the possibility of her gradual occupation of Turkish territory. Lord Palmerston, through the Treaty of Paris, brought Turkey within the circle of the Great Powers, placed the territorial integrity of the Sultan's Empire in the safeguard of Europe, made intervention in Turkish affairs a common right of the Great Powers, and extorted from the Sultan equal rights for the Christian population in the empire. His idea, visibly, was that the Christians being higher elements than the Turks, they would gradually become masters in the Ottoman Empire, and thus the constitutional structure of England would happily be transplanted into the Kingdom of the Sultan ; and thus ever-greedy Russia and jealous Europe would be deprived of the object of their appetite. Lord Palmerston's dream would possibly have been realised, granting the existence of a permanently united Europe—a contingency that never was nor could be possible.

Nevertheless, Lord Palmerston, was a master of his political conviction and a statesman of unfailing resolution ; and the aim of his policy was for the interest of the Christian races in Turkey—that *that*

*Empire should be for them, and not for Russia.* Hence, the spirit of the traditional policy of England was not in reality changed with regard to the Christians in Turkey, but, on the contrary, was emphasised to their benefit.

But at the time of the Cretan insurrection of 1866-7, when Disraeli became Prime Minister, the policy of England was reversed, and a new policy formulated and acted upon—a policy of non-intervention in the affairs of Turkey. The Porte must be left alone to deal with its Christian subjects in any way it thought best for its own interest.

Then Austria took the lead in urging the Powers to deal in a comprehensive spirit with the growing evils of the Turkish Empire, as the Sultan had broken all his promises, and the Treaty of Paris had failed to provide sufficient guarantees for the better government of the Christians of Turkey. She accordingly proposed :—

“ To put the population of Turkey under the protectorate of the whole of Europe, by endowing them, under guarantees from all the Courts, with independent institutions in accordance with their various religions and races.” \*

All the other Powers agreed to the proposal of Austria except England, whose Foreign Secretary, Lord Derby, opposed every suggestion for intervention on behalf of the Christians of Turkey. The policy was, of course, Disraeli's, and Lord Derby was merely acting as an instrument, against his own conviction, so clearly expressed two years ago in his King's Lynn speech.

In 1876—1877 there are several despatches in which the British Secretary for Foreign Affairs has formally laid down the above policy, as can be seen from the following specimen :—

“ Her Majesty's Government have, since the outbreak in Bosnia and Herzegovina, deprecated the diplomatic intervention of the other Powers in the affairs of the Ottoman Empire. Her Majesty's Government would not, however, assume the responsibility of advising the Porte, who must be guided by what they thought best, after due consideration, for the welfare of the Ottoman Empire. It was impossible to expect them (Her Majesty's Government) to do more than to state, if their opinion was asked, that they had better follow the policy which they thought most consistent with their own interests.”

It was the declared abdication of England from the affairs of Turkey : the abdication of her own policy imposed on Turkey by the Treaty of Paris, through the influence of Lord Palmerston. She therefore was now destroying her own policy with her own hand in affording the Sultan a free hand to destroy his Christian subjects. Further, Disraeli, soon to become Lord Beaconsfield, at least apparently, was becoming as zealous for the independence of Turkey as one would

\* Emile de Girardin's “ The Shame of Europe,” p. 53.



expect from the present ambitious young Turkish régime, if we might construe in its true light the following utterance :—

“ . . . . Any intervention by consuls was scarcely compatible with the independent authority of the Porte ; it offered an inducement to insurrection as a means of appealing to foreign sympathy against Turkish rule, and it might improbably open the way to further diplomatic interference in the internal affairs of the empire . . . .” \*

In a speech to a deputation, headed by Mr. John Bright, on July 14, 1876, Lord Derby said :—

“ As regards intervention between Turkey and the subjects of the Porte, or between Turkey and semi-independent States which form part of the Turkish Empire, that is a question which has never been so much as entertained. *We will endeavour to press that view on others*, and I have every reason to hope that we shall succeed. . . . In a few words, our policy as regards this war now going on is that we shall not intervene ; *we shall do our utmost, if necessary, to discourage others from intervening.* . . . .”

The explanation of this policy is partly found in the Blue Books, from which it is testified that Lord Derby accused Austria bluntly of having got up and of keeping alive, for her own ends, the insurrection in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At all times such has been the excuse of the Turkish policy of persecutions and massacres. Now, by adopting the same line, Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet was indirectly making England an accessory to the ignorant, barbarian and despotic Power, as Turkey had been branded by all the noble and true statesmen of England.

The war mentioned by Lord Derby was simply an uprising of poorly-armed Slavonic Christians, driven to desperation by intolerable wrongs, against well-armed Turkish troops, aided by armed Moslem bands of murderers and robbers. Yet, Beaconsfield's policy was to form a ring round these unequally-matched combatants, neither intervening himself nor letting others intervene. He apparently ignored the fact that the Sultan, under the pressure of another British statesman, had bound himself before the Congress of Paris twenty years before, to place his Christian subjects on a footing of equality with the Mohammedans ; but had with undoubted premeditation broken every item of his solemn engagement, and the oppression of the Christians had gone from bad to worse, and had at last become unbearable. They had, therefore, an absolute right to rise in insurrection against a perjured Government ; and they also had a clear claim to expect, beyond question, the assistance of England, who had herself initiated the policy, before the Arcopagus of Europe, for upholding their human rights.

See Blue Book : Turkey, No. 2 (1876), p. 96 : No. 3, pp. 174, 188, 192, 236

The Christian population in the Balkans were taught by the Great Powers to expect human justice from the Sultan's rule, and when they demonstrated their righteous claims, they were reprov'd by the Powers, and unscrupulously allowed to be massacred by the Sultan's official and unofficial murderers. The diplomacy of the Powers, whether from fear of European war or in view of selfish interests, and their anti-Russian policy, remained cruelly unemotional at the unspeakable misery of the martyred Christians in the Balkans, until the wave of uncontrollable pity and indignation roused the Russian people to such an enthusiasm that no Government could have held them back from going to the rescue of their kin in race and religion.

With the blood of her countless soldiers, fallen in the battlefields in the Balkans and Armenia, Russia then gave her pledge for the freedom of the Balkan Slavs, and for the security of life for the Armenian people by the Treaty of San Stefano. Lord Beaconsfield sent a fleet to the Bosphorus to humiliate Russia in her achievement, and to strengthen the murderous hand of the Sultan. Bismark and Beaconsfield, in the Congress of Berlin, dictated to Russia, as Louis Napoleon and Palmerston had done in the Congress at Paris, that the Great Powers, and not Russia alone, were the common protectors of the Christians in Turkey. She was forced to give back Macedonia to the Turks, and to evacuate the occupied part of Armenia, and also to transfer her right, for protection and execution of reforms in those countries, to all the Great Powers in common. The world knows how Europe kept her engagements. The unrest and miseries in Macedonia have rung in the ears of Europe ever since, and the fair face of the Ottoman Empire, in all directions, have been stained with the blood of butchered Armenian men, women and children. Yet, the crowned Master of Bismark went to Constantinople to give his sanction to Abdul Hamid's great crime, and the successors of Lord Beaconsfield, one after another, with diplomatic speeches had perforce to wash their hands of the cruel business like so many Pilates.

P. TONAPETEAN.

(To be continued.)

## Local Jottings,

### CALCUTTA AND ARMENIAN RELIEF.

We have received from a correspondent several items of information regarding the doings of Armenians in the Indian City of Palaces which we gladly give to our readers, especially as *Ararat* is gradually extending its circulation among our compatriots there, and it is well that our Magazine should be the medium for interchange of news among our Colonies scattered throughout the world.



He first brings to our notice an extract from the *Statesman*, a local daily paper; and as this has a complimentary reference to ourselves, it would not be human for us to omit giving this extract in full:—

“With half a world in arms and war conditions prevailing more or less from the Baltic to Kiao-chau, it is not easy to keep track of all the combatants, and it is probable that very few people in England or India have any clear idea of the part which the Armenians are playing in the present struggle. Their position is, of course, a difficult one. As Turkish subjects, they have actually been exposed to hardships even in England, where many of them have lost their employment under the law relating to alien enemies. Their native country has been given up to the horrors of war. It must not be imagined, however, that the Armenians have been content to play an entirely passive part in this great drama. Six thousand of them are actively co-operating as volunteers with the Russian forces in Turkey. Five thousand have been embodied in the United States and are on their way to the front. A number are serving in the Foreign Legion of the French Army. Altogether Armenia will shortly be represented in the battlefields of Europe by at least 25,000 volunteers. These and other interesting facts have been gathered from the monthly magazine *Ararat*, published in London, which is not only a credit to Armenian journalism, but also a valuable store of information on Near Eastern affairs.”

Our correspondent then describes a very pretty wedding which was solemnised at the Armenian Church in Calcutta, the happy couple being Mr. A. P. Arakiel and Miss Violet Stephen.

The beauty of the dresses worn by the bride and bridesmaids and those closely interested, the monster wedding-cake, the reception of over 600 guests at the residence of Mr. A. Stephen, with the fairy-like scene on the extensive lawn, brilliantly lighted up in the evening, all under the spell of the band of the 16th Rajputs, betoken a galaxy of splendour which was heightened by the wondrous magic of an Eastern sky scintillating with stars. Without going into the material details of dress and beauty furnished by our correspondent, our imagination rests content with this poetic fancy, which augured well for the newly-wedded couple.

It was not many days after that the host and hostess on the above occasion celebrated at the same place their silver wedding, with equal appreciation and zest, by a goodly gathering of relatives and friends.

The next item of intelligence from Calcutta refers to the steps taken to organise a Relief Fund for the distress among Turkish and Persian Armenians in consequence of the war. The movement was originated by the clergy of the Armenian Church of Calcutta, and preparatory to a general meeting of the residents, the following two appeals were circulated by them:—

## I.

## To THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY OF CALCUTTA.

The all European conflict, the most appalling and calamitous in the annals of the world, has also brought its share of indescribable distress to the Armenians.

Since the declaration of war by Turkey, Armenia has become the scene of hostilities, and the horrors of war have been accentuated by the cruelty and brutality committed by the Turks and Kurds on its defenceless inhabitants.

Our compatriots have again become victims of wholesale massacres, tyrannous oppression and persecution. Filled with awe and terror, they flee in large numbers under unfavourable climatic conditions to the Caucasus, where there is an ever-increasing number of homeless and helpless emigrants, who present a deplorable and heart-rending spectacle.

On the other hand thousands of Armenians are shedding their precious blood for the cause of right, justice and civilisation, either in the Russian Army or as volunteers.

The participation of the Armenians in such a noble cause is highly honourable and praiseworthy and consistent with the highest ideals and finest traditions of our race, but it must not be ignored that numerous families, being deprived of their sole supporters and bread winners, are plunged in the direst privation, misery and hardship.

Armenia is involved in a life and death struggle, and is passing through a critical stage of her existence.

In view of this, His Holiness the Catholicos of all the Armenians, deeply concerned in the welfare of his flock, sends a pathetic appeal to the devoted sons of Armenia to come to the cry of urgent help.

In this hour of national storm and stress, it is a bounden duty incumbent on us to extend a helping hand to alleviate the pitiable condition of our compatriots, who have staked their very lives for our national existence.

It is earnestly requested that the generous and sympathetic members of our community, actuated by patriotic and humanitarian feelings, will willingly come forward in this moment of utmost gravity and each one will contribute heartily, “not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

Armenian Holy Church of Nazareth, Calcutta.

14th February, 1915.

## II.

## AN APPEAL.

Again war, again desolation and blood.....

This time the trumpet of war is sounded at the foot of Mount Ararat, on the banks of the rivers Arax and Euphrates, on the skirts of historic Erzeroum in the confines of the Garden of Eden, the ancient Fatherland of the Armenians, and blood flows like water amidst the clashing of swords and the thundering of guns.



Once more the victorious Armies of the Czar have come forward in conjunction with the noble and heroic allies to vindicate the down-trodden rights of the smaller Christian nations, among whom are the Armenians, who have been for many centuries groaning under the galling yoke of Turkish thralldom.

Once more the mighty white Eagle of the North darts with outstretched wings towards the Armenian plateau to protect our tormented and persecuted compatriots.

The hearts of all the Armenians, who are scattered far and wide over the world, have been deeply moved and affected. All feel the gravity of the historic moment. All comprehend fully that Armenia is involved in a life-and-death struggle.

In Russian Armenia the rich have opened wide their purses and the young are laying down their precious lives for the success of the Russian arms. The Armenian ladies prepare with their tender hands bandages and clothing for the self-sacrificing heroes, and the Armenian rustic shares his loaf of bread with the soldier, who is fighting for the cause of right and justice.

The Turkish hordes failing to resist the victorious advance of the Russians, wreak the vengeance of their shameful defeat on the unprotected and unarmed Armenian villages, putting to the sword young and old, woman and child, pillaging and burning the houses and carrying desolation everywhere. The terror-stricken villagers who happen to escape, flee helter-skelter to the Caucasian frontier.

The numerous telegraphic and press news describe in pathetic and heartrending terms the pitiful plight of the thousands of Armenian refugees.

Without food and clothing, helpless and homeless, they are scattered over the Russian frontier at the mercy of the severe climate, and lying in the open air, death and famine stare them in the face.

The contented and well-to-do villager of yesterday is now deprived of clothes to protect him from the cold, is now longing for a piece of bread to appease his hunger, and yearns for a roof to lie down under.

Are we to remain satisfied and content when thousands of our co-religionists are subjected to dire distress and privation?

Can our consciences be free when we call to mind that the poor refugees die by hundreds, being exposed to the severe cold, chill and frost.

Can we take food at ease when we picture to ourselves the terrible state of thousands of innocent babes and children, who, having become ill or emaciated, cry bitterly for a morsel of dry bread?

Can we live comfortably when our chivalrous volunteers sacrifice their lives—their most precious treasure—on the altar of the emancipation of their compatriots?

When tens of thousands of our brethren are homeless, naked, ill and friendless, when thousands of Armenian volunteers shed their blood for the amelioration of the unhappy lot of the Turkish Armenians, when even Armenian ladies, prompted by humanitarian and patriotic

feelings, have gone to the front, we are not to remain passive and indifferent, but on the contrary our love for our Fatherland should be kindled and our hearts should burn within us to render what help and assistance we can.

The ill-starred refugees turn their sad and doleful faces to us in their distress and imploringly ask for help.

They ask for bread, clothing and shelter.

They appeal to us most urgently and earnestly in the name of humanity to come forward at this hour of national storm and stress, and help and succour them.

May the Almighty repay the generous and sympathetic donors and contributors a hundred-fold, and may retributive justice be soon meted out and a new bright era of freedom and prosperity dawn for our long-suffering compatriots, who have been up to now denied the most elementary rights of citizenship.

THE OFFICIATING PRIESTS,  
of the Armenian Community of Calcutta.

15th March, 1915.

The following is an account of the general meeting held to raise the necessary funds, for which we are indebted to the *Calcutta Statesman* of March 17th:—

## ARMENIANS AND THE WAR.

### THE TRAGEDY OF BELGIUM REPEATED.

#### RELIEF FUND OPENED IN CALCUTTA.

On Monday, a general meeting of the Armenian Community of Calcutta was convened at Mr. J. C. Galstaun's residence, 234, Lower Circular Road, by the officiating priests of the Armenian Holy Church of Nazareth, to devise measures for the raising of subscriptions in aid of the thousands of homeless and helpless Armenian refugees who have fled to the Caucasus and who are in a state of pitiful destitution, suffering fearful hardships owing to the severity of the climate, the ravages of disease, and lack of food and clothing.

Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, the Rev. Garegin Johannes, on behalf of the priests, said: Since the rash entry of Turkey into the arena of war, Armenia, the home of our ancestors, has become the scene of hostilities and been turned into a field of carnage. The drama enacted in Belgium is being repeated in Armenia, and the appalling atrocities perpetrated on its defenceless inhabitants can better be imagined than described. Thousands of terror-stricken Armenians have fled and are fleeing into Trans-Caucasia and are in dire distress and privation, lacking the bare necessities of life and suffering terribly from want of food, shelter, and clothing. On the



other hand thousands of Armenian volunteers from Russia, Roumania, Bulgaria, the United States of America, and other countries have hurried to the Caucasian frontier, and are fighting heroically in conjunction with the Russian legions. The present war of liberation, which is waged in the cause of right, justice, humanity, and civilisation, will also bring relief to the Turkish Armenians, who have for five centuries suffered cruel martyrdoms, all their appeals for the most elementary justice having sounded as a voice crying in the wilderness. We are now at a sublime moment when, thanks to the heroism of noble nations who venerate the cult of liberty, Armenia will soon be delivered from the old nightmare of despotism and will see the realisation of her cherished dreams. The Armenians scattered throughout the world, from the banks of the Neva to the Nile and from San Francisco to Yokohama, are making vigorous efforts to bring their share to the achievement of the common end. The soul-stirring call for help is extremely great, urgent, indispensable, and imperative. Subscriptions are being raised at all Armenian centres to form funds for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the numerous volunteers, rendering assistance to the wounded and to the families of those killed in action, and lending a helping hand to the hundred thousand Armenian refugees, who present a deplorable and heart-rending spectacle. Many Armenian Communities, actuated by patriotic and humanitarian feelings, have not only made liberal contributions but even decided to pay a certain percentage of their incomes to the national cause till the termination of the war. Most sanguine hopes are entertained that the Armenian Community of Calcutta, too, who have always been in the forefront in all national calamities, will, with their usual generosity, willingly come forward in this historic moment of utmost gravity and acquit themselves creditably of their duty. With this object in view, the officiating priests have convened this meeting which I now have the honour to declare open.

Mr. C. L. Phillips, who was unanimously appointed to the chair, described in pathetic terms the terrible condition of affairs prevailing in Armenia, and the acute distress of the thousands of Armenian refugees; and appealed to the audience to extend liberal help in this hour of national storm and stress.

Mr. A. Stephen was elected Treasurer. The Rev. Garegin Johannes and Mr. P. H. Crete were elected joint-secretaries. Two committees, one consisting of ladies and the other of gentlemen, were appointed to collect funds and organise entertainments, concerts, and other efforts on behalf of the relief fund.

A vote of thanks to the chair concluded the meeting.

# FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following amounts were subscribed on the spot :—

	Rs.
Mr. C. L. Phillips..	5,000
A. Friend ..	3,500
Mr. J. C. Galstaun	3,500
Mr. P. H. Crete ..	2,500
Mr. D. A. David	1,500
Mr. M. Mackertich	2,000
Mr. J. Zorab ..	500
Mr. G. M. Gregory	750
Messrs. Arakiel Bros.	500
Mr. J. E. Sophianopoulo	250
Mr. S. J. Apcar ..	250
Mr. M. M. Ambareh	250
Mr. S. H. Apcar..	50
Mr. A. C. Lucas..	50
Mr. Sarkies Nazar	50
Mr. L. Nahapiet..	100
Mr. G. A. Arratoon	250
Mrs. A. Stephen..	250
Mrs. T. Malcolm..	100
Mrs. J. F. Gregory	100
Mrs. S. M. Ambareh	100
Mrs. A. P. Arakiel	100
Mrs. C. L. Phillips	250
Mrs. C. Cachatoor	100
Mrs. T. B. Sookias	20
Total Rs.	22,020

All contributions to the Armenian Relief Fund will be thankfully received by Mr. A. Stephen, the Treasurer, 2, Camac Street.

The above was supplemented by a short editorial in the *Statesman* of the same date, and runs as follows :—

“The Armenians of Asia Minor, that sorely martyred race, have felt the full brunt of the sufferings of war. The many thousands who have fled into Trans-Caucasia are enduring terrible hardships through the severity of the climate, the ravages of disease, and the lack of the necessities of life. This represents the refuge they have sought from a still worse fate in the theatre of war. The tragedy of Belgium, as the Rev. G. Johannes declares, is being repeated in Armenia. The meeting of the Armenian community in Calcutta which was held on Monday to organise a relief fund elicited at once subscriptions exceeding Rs. 22,000, and it may be hoped that this amount will be largely augmented through the sympathy of all classes in India.”



## Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund.

We have pleasure in recording continued and satisfactory progress of this Fund, to which we have devoted our efforts for the past four months, and our thanks are due to all those of our readers who have assisted in making it a success. The distress, to which the initiation of the Fund was due, far from showing signs of abatement, remains acute. A *Kondak*, or Encyclical, has been issued by His Holiness the Catholicos, a copy being addressed direct to our Association, expressing appreciation of all that has been done by Armenians throughout the world, describing the meetings held for the relief of distress and for the collection of funds, and giving voice to the hope that no efforts of his flock will be relaxed towards meeting the unparalleled emergency that has arisen.

The tribulation the nation is passing through is beyond description, and to the loss of home and all worldly possessions, the terrible scourge of disease is being superadded, through insanitary conditions brought about by the war in a country where, even in peace time, the Turkish idea of sanitation was primitive.

According to our practice, we give below a detailed account of the transactions for which our Association is responsible. Since our last issue the following sums have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Armenian Colonies of Sourabaya and Galoehan (Java) (2nd donation) .. .. .	1,000	0	0
O. Andreasian (2nd donation) .. .. .	20	0	0
Mrs. Macloghlin .. .. .	5	5	0
L. Tashjian .. .. .	1	0	0
Through Mrs. Diana Agabeg Apcar (5th list) ..	10	12	2
Do. do. (6th list) ..	3	11	1
	1,040	8	3
Balance in hand from previous month ..	78	1	10
Total available in April .. .. .	£1,118	10	1

From this amount, the sum of £1,000 was remitted by our Hon. Treasurer on April 7th to His Holiness the Catholicos at Etchmiadzin, making in all £6,100 0s. 0d. remitted up to date; and there is thus left in our hands a balance of £118 10s. 1d. In response to the *Kondak* we have referred to above, we appeal with all the emphasis we can command for further help from all who are able to give, and we doubt not that our appeal will not be in vain.

The contributions making up the 5th and 6th lists received from Yokohama through Mrs. Diana Agabeg Apcar, which are included in the above total, are as follows:—

C. D.	..	..	..	Yen	5.00
Mrs. Apcar	..	..	..	„	100.00
A. K.	..	..	..	„	25.00
X. Y. Z.	..	..	..	„	5.00
B. F. T.	..	..	..	„	5.00

Total Yen 140.00=£14 3s. 3d.

## The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund.

Since we reported last at the end of March, the Fund continues to increase and to rouse interest in many fresh quarters. A further £150 has been received.

The following extract is from a letter from the Mayor of Tiflis to H.B.M.'s Consul-General at Moscow: "I beg to convey to you my deep gratitude for your participation in the needs of the Armenian refugees and volunteers. . . .

"The Armenian refugees, suffering from cold, bad nourishment and impossible housing, are in a very deplorable state, especially the women and children. The absence of clothing and food is causing a great mortality amongst them, and notwithstanding the help given them by the various Committees, their situation is very distressing. . . . It is desirable that money and warm clothing should be sent.

"As to the Armenian volunteers, a general want in the organisation of medical help and warm clothing is noticeable, which puts them into very painful circumstances, which may be averted by sending money."

Receipts, together with letters of grateful acknowledgment, have been received from the Mayor of Tiflis in response to the two instalments of £200 cabled out by our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Bohn, in January and February to our Consul-General at Moscow, which he very kindly handed on to the Mayor. Half the amounts were devoted to Red Cross work among the volunteers, and half for relief of refugees.

On the 16th inst. Mr. Bohn cabled £600 to H.B.M.'s Consul-General at Moscow, with a request that he would kindly transmit the amount to His Holiness the Catholicos at Etchmiadzin as a contribution to his Fund, half the sum to be devoted to Red Cross work among Armenian volunteers in the Caucasus, the other half to be used for relief of the refugees.



Under the heading "Turkey's Victims," the appeal for our Fund appeared in *The Egyptian Gazette* on March 27th, with a note from the Editor saying that he will be happy to receive and forward subscriptions from any readers who may wish to contribute to the London Fund. This is a specially kind and thoughtful action on his part. Armenia's many friends in Egypt have already contributed the sum of about £1,143 to the Fund for the same purpose at Alexandria. Would that some Editors in England would feel moved to help in the same way!

Among other subscriptions a fourth donation of £50 has come from our most generous supporter, Mr. Basil Orpin, three sisters at Harrogate have sent twenty guineas with promises of further help. Mrs. Harington sends a second donation of £5, Mrs. Dodgson sends £5, Rev. E. J. Sing and Mrs. Sing send £2 each, Miss J. S. Jones sends £2 10s. (second donation), Miss Danby sends £2 10s., Miss Bere sends £2 2s., Mrs. Tiratsoo £2, Hon. Mrs. Arthur Henniker £2 2s. Miss A. Bernard most kindly sent a cheque from herself and friends, and a "lady who appreciated Miss Bernard's beautiful lecture on the Passion Play" sent a donation. A daily governess who sends a second donation writes: "I cannot help feeling that, though Belgium and Serbia need our compassion and aid, Armenia should have the *first* consideration, for her people endure suffering not only for their rights as a nation, but for their Faith." Every true Christian's heart must echo this sentiment. A Second-Lieutenant in the 3rd Company A.S.C., now at the front, sends a cheque for £1 "to help your Armenian Red Cross Fund. I wish you sincere luck in your noble work." The Employees of Jas. Wakeham & Co. ("The Kensington News") kindly sent a donation of £1. A lady who encloses a donation writes: "Some of it is money I found in my mother's purse when she died nine years ago. Some of it was in my father's pocket when he died five years ago. I have kept it until now as too sacred to spend, but I feel as if they would like me to give it to these poor people. I hope God's blessing will go with it. I would like it spent in medicine or bandages and not in other expenses." Miss Susette M. Taylor, F.R.G.S., sends a donation from Oxford, and encloses a copy of her little book "Easy Russian for our Men Abroad," which gives the pronunciation of every Russian word. It costs only 6d. and seems likely to be very useful. The publishers are Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co.

A large quantity of bandages have been received. Parcels come from all parts of the country. The thinner the material is, the better for our purpose, and the best size is 3in. wide by 6yds. in length. From Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England warm garments have come for refugees, and woollen comforts for Armenian volunteers in the Caucasus. Work and material are both excellent. Over 1,200 articles have been received since we sent out last. The Girls of the Intermediate School, Newport, Mon., have sent us two more packages of beautifully knitted "woollies." From Canaan Park College, Edinburgh, comes a handsome contribution of mufflers. Twenty-five

children of Hilton School, St. Ives, Hunts., send 21 pairs of cuffs with a letter written by themselves. It reads: "Please will you forward these cuffs to the Armenians, and we hope they will keep them a little warmer. We were delighted in making them, and we hope they will get there safe. We hope they will have a victorious year."

Two pairs of specially well knitted socks were "made by a lady aged 91." Some nicely knitted articles were made by boys.

We have to thank all the kind donors for their gifts and the sympathetic letters which accompanied so many of them. And still we beg for all the support the British public can give in order that our work may be not only continued but extended. Money is needed to buy drugs, which are not to be had in the Caucasus. Money is also wanted (£500,000) for the most important work of re-patriating the 60,000 destitute refugees in the Caucasus when the war is ended. Who will help them to re-build their homes, to supply them with seed corn, plough horses, and the other necessities which can make and keep *Armenia for the Armenians* till the day when they come into their own? The sum of £25,000 per month is needed to relieve distress among these refugees.

Donations towards these objects will be thankfully received by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. A. Godson Bohn, 17, Holland Villas Road, Kensington, London, or by the Hon. Secretary, Miss E. J. Robinson, 35A, Elsham Road, Kensington, London.

Gifts of warm socks, stockings, cardigans, shirts, gloves or mittens for volunteers, or any useful *new* garments for men, women or children, will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary at above address.

EMILY J. ROBINSON.

## "At Home"

OF THE

## Armenian United Association of London,

Held at the Elysee Hall, Queen's Road, W., on Sunday,

April 4th, 1915.

By an uncommon coincidence, Easter Sunday happened to fall this year on April 4th, for both the Eastern and the Western Churches. The Association, as usual, celebrated the occasion by an "At Home," at which Mr. Archag Tchobanian, the talented Armenian writer and poet, whose presence in London was opportune, gave a most interesting address in Armenian, his elegance of diction being such as to call forth general admiration and applause.



The following was the musical programme :—

SONG .. .. " Sink, Red Sun " .. *del Riego*  
Miss CONSTANCE EDWARDS.

SONGS .. (a) " I know of Two Bright Eyes " .. *Clutsam*  
(b) " Im Sireli " .. *Armenian Song*  
(By request)  
Mr. MARTYN VAN-LENNEP.

ARIA .. .. " Ave Maria " .. *Bach-Gounod*  
Miss MARJORIE VAN-LENNEP.

Miss Constance Edwards sang with much taste and feeling ; while Mr. and Miss van-Lennep were welcomed as old friends, their sympathetic renderings being much appreciated. Mr. van-Lennep's Armenian song received the applause it deserved. It was hoped that it would have been possible to include some Armenian Easter chants, but time went by so rapidly with the printed items of the programme and the addresses, that these had to be omitted.

The PRESIDENT opened the proceedings with the usual Easter greetings, and added a few remarks on the present position of affairs. He said : " Last year, from this place, I pictured to you a revived Armenia, of which our Easter day was a true emblem. Our hopes of the promised reforms—even such a patchwork as they were—were not realised but shattered, and our countrymen have been going through an agony which most of us here can hardly bring home to themselves. The able-bodied are, however, fighting the good fight, while the helpless—the aged, the women and the children—have, we trust, reached that period of darkness which precedes the dawn, raising in us renewed hopes of a future Armenia even more glorious than what we had pictured last year. It is for us, for you and me, to keep our thoughts fixed steadily on what our countrymen are undergoing to bring about that realisation. We have to help them materially and morally, and I implore you not to forget their needs, and by so doing we ourselves shall be sharers in a humble way in the triumph that is to come. Their appealing cries come over the thousands of miles that separate us, and you cannot fail to hear them. It is a satisfaction to feel that we are attempting to answer these appeals, but much more is needed than we have yet done, and I am sure you will rise to the occasion that is so urgent and so tragic. I will not stand longer in the way of the address you are all longing to hear from our friend Mr. Archag Tchobanian. If we did not know him personally before, we knew him by fame as a great author, as a great poet, who is destined to rise to even greater heights in the cause of Armenian literature. He will tell us of things in general which are, at the present moment, uppermost in our thoughts as a nation, and we look upon it as a great privilege that we have him here to-day to speak to us."

MR. TCHOBANIAN opened his address by saying that this was Easter, the symbol of the triumph through suffering of the Spirit over brutal force, which had a very deep meaning, especially for us Armenians, because our cause would also surely one day triumph through all the sufferings that we had endured for so long.

He then proceeded to discuss the War, and said that this great World War was a war for Freedom, a struggle to get rid of militarism represented at present by the Teutonic world and Turkey. It is going to be a difficult struggle, he said, but he was confident that the nations who were fighting for such a great and righteous cause would be victorious in the end.

What is this war going to do for Armenia ? Armenia has not stood aside in this struggle, but has from the very beginning contributed to the extent of her power. Although all nations will benefit by this war, even those which have not been fighting, but those who have helped will benefit more, amongst which will rank Armenia. He said that at the outbreak of the war his chief desire was to see the Armenian nation participate in this struggle for liberty, and he was glad, as well as all Armenians, that they were able to do so. Great numbers of Armenians have joined the Allied armies ; principally the Caucasian army.

Twenty years ago when all the Powers, in their own interests, kept on good terms with Turkey and her tyrannical régime, who was it that rose against them ? It was the Armenians. This attack cost them very dear, and resulted in the dreadful massacres of which we all know. At the time very few people understood the cause and the meaning of these massacres ; they said the Armenians were a weak, helpless people unable to defend themselves and who probably deserved all they got. We had, however, some good friends and sympathisers, in Europe and America, the names of whom are too numerous to mention ; they knew why we were being massacred, and amongst them there is one name which it is our duty always to mention, Mr. Gladstone, who said : " To serve Armenia is to serve civilisation." Besides Mr. Gladstone there are others, such as Lord Bryce, who knows Armenia as well as ourselves ; and in France there is M. Cochin, M. Clemenceau, and others, who were and are always sympathisers of our cause. They understood from the very beginning that we were not a weak nation, that we deserved respect, and that the real cause of the massacres was that we Armenians refused to go on any longer being treated as the slaves of Turkey. Armenia, being in the midst and under the rule of the powerful Mahommedan Power of Turkey, could easily have changed her religion to that of Mohammedanism and lived quietly and peacefully in accord with that country, but she refused to do so and preferred the worst of sufferings to the abandonment of Christian religion, Western culture and her national individuality. Surely it is the pride of a nation to endure sufferings and massacres for such a great and just cause, and all we Armenians consider it an honour to have done so.



This great world struggle is similar in every respect to the small struggle of the Armenians twenty years ago, only on a much greater scale. In the same way as Belgium has suffered at the hands of the Germans, so also Armenia suffered at the hands of the Turks. Belgium, however, being near, people are easily able to realise the sufferings the Belgians have undergone, whilst in the case of Armenia which is far away, this was not so, and people were not able to realise the terrible sufferings the Armenians were undergoing. It is because the cause of Armenia is similar to that of the Great Liberal Powers that she is fighting with them to-day side by side.

Mr. Tchobanian said there was no need for him to tell us what the Armenians were doing in this war, as we knew that from the newspapers. There are many thousands of Armenians fighting, some in the French and British armies, but naturally for several reasons the greatest number are fighting with the Russian army; firstly, because a great part of Armenia being under the rule of Russia, they are already on the soil of war and are only too pleased to be able to help this Great Power; and secondly, because of this opportunity offered them to fight against their old enemy the Turk. Naturally it is not only the Armenians in Russia who ought to help in this struggle, many Armenians have come and are still coming all the way from America and from several European colonies to join their comrades in this fight against Turkey. The Armenians started fighting from the beginning, but of course when Turkey entered the fray they joined in much greater numbers, taking advantage of the opportunity offered them of fighting against their secular tyrant the Turk. The Russians themselves admit the great services rendered by these Armenians, and the Russian press is high in its praise of the bravery shown by these soldiers, while several eminent men of the Russian nation already say that it is right to accord autonomy to Armenia after this war.

As a proof of their sympathy, when about a hundred thousand Armenians, fleeing from the massacres, left Persian and Turkish Armenia lately and sought refuge in the Caucasus, a Russian committee was formed in Petrograd, known as the Russo-Armenian Committee, to look after the needs of these Armenian refugees. This committee arranged for a special day when collections were made all over Petrograd for the Armenians, similar to what took place in London for the Belgians; they also have decided to strike a medal with the following inscription in Russian and Armenian:—"The Russians to the Armenians in their days of trial."

Mr. Tchobanian now gave a picture in a few words of the terrible massacres and atrocities which have recently been committed on the Turco-Russian frontier in Armenia. On the Russians being forced to retreat from part of the provinces of Turkish Armenia which they had occupied, the Turks immediately started massacring the Armenians, and accounts of eye-witnesses are too terrible to relate. Numbers of men were seen tied together and hurled over deep precipices, and

defenceless women and children were murdered in cold blood. The horrors committed in Belgium fade in the sight of these terrible atrocities committed by the Turks in Armenia.

In view of all these facts how could Armenians possibly remain quiet and do nothing? It is the duty of every Armenian to ask himself what he has done, directly or indirectly, to help his country in this hour of need.

He then proceeded to show the value of Armenian culture and of the intellectual and artistic qualities of the race. He mentioned, amongst other things, the opinion of a great French linguist, M. Meillet, who told him one day that he (M. Meillet) considered the classical Armenian of the 5th century a language as beautiful and perfect as that of the Greek of Sophocles.

The speaker also mentioned the opinion of a Turkish writer, who recognises that it was the Armenians who took the leading part in the creation of the Seldjoukian art, as well as what is known as the Ottoman art. The majority of the beautiful mosques and other monuments of Turkey, as well as the fine carpets and other objects of artistic merit, which have always been so greatly admired by Europeans, are the works of Armenian artists.

Mr. Tchobanian then proceeded to praise the heroism displayed by the Armenian race during the present war. He spoke in enthusiastic terms of the thousands of Armenian volunteers who are fighting in the Caucasus; of the impressiveness of the picture of those young men coming all the way from America in the depth of winter to risk their lives for the liberation of their Fatherland; and of the story of the old Armenian peasant woman whose only son had been killed on the battlefield and who, according to the Russian newspapers, was found overcome with grief and crying out aloud from her tears: "Why have I no other children to give to my country?"

Mr. Tchobanian explained what the Armenian aspirations and *desiderata* were; he proved that the establishment of an autonomy in the six Armenian vilayets and Cilicia under the protection of Russia and with the co-operation of her Allies, is not only right but possible, and that the Armenians deserve it, in view of the historic part they have played and the national culture which they possess.

He closed his address by expressing the hope that at the conclusion of this War, Russia, England and France will have the generosity of rewarding the long struggles and sufferings of the Armenian nation for an ideal of civilisation, throughout centuries, and for the part she has played in the present struggle for the cause of liberty, by according to her the realisation of her aspirations.

At the close of the address the President, in a few words, expressed the gratitude of all present for the treat that had been given them, the satisfaction of those who understood Armenian being sensibly reflected on the faces of those who did not. It was a period of anxiety and anticipation we were passing through, and Mr. Tchobanian had clearly voiced the aspirations of Armenians to be allowed to take their place



as one of the "little nations" who were to live their own life of progress and civilisation according to their own historic past, as the Allied Powers had pledged on the outbreak of this war.

After an interval for tea, Professor G. THOUMAÏAN gave a short summary in English of the points in Mr. Tchobanian's address for the benefit of those who did not understand Armenian. This was followed by a recitation in Armenian by Madame Raschide of a patriotic poem by Patkanian. There were also other speakers until the allotted time for the gathering was reached.

## Announcements.

### THE ARMENIAN UNITED ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.

There will be an "At Home" of the Association on Sunday, May 16th, from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m., at the Elysée Hall, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W.

A lecture will be delivered by Mr. W. Llewelyn Williams, late Editor of "The Sunday Strand," on *The New Birth of Russia*.

The lecture will begin at 3.45, and members and their friends are earnestly requested to be in their seats punctually, so as to avoid distracting the attention of the lecturer when he has once begun.

At a Meeting of the General Council of the Association, held on Monday, April 12th, 1915, the following Executive Committees were constituted for the current year, and until the next election, under Rule 32 of the Association's Rules:—

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. For Election of Members .. ..        | The President.<br>Mr. A. P. Hacobian.<br>Dr. J. A. Calantar.   |
| 2. For Social Purposes .. ..            | The President.<br>Miss M. Koran.<br>Miss P. Aganoor.<br>Miss A. Bagram.<br>Mr. A. Yeretizian.          |
| 3. For Control of Office and Library .. | The President.<br>Mr. J. G. Joakim.<br>Dr. M. K. Gudenian.   |
| 4. For Charity and Education .. ..      | The President.<br>Mr. A. P. Hacobian.<br>Mr. T. Paul.<br>Mr. H. N. Mosditchian.<br>Prof. G. Thoumaïan. |

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 5. For Political Purposes .. ..   | The President.<br>Mr. A. P. Hacobian.<br>Mr. H. N. Mosditchian.<br>Prof. G. Thoumaïan.<br>Mr. D. Arslanian. |
| 6. For Finance .. ..              | The President.<br>Hon. Treasurer, or,<br>(in his absence)<br>Hon. Asst. Treasurer.<br>Mr. E. G. Benlian.    |
| 7. For Church Purposes .. ..      | The President.<br>Mr. A. P. Hacobian.<br>Mr. J. G. Joakim.<br>Mr. D. Arslanian.<br>Mr. E. G. Benlian.       |
| 8. For Publication Purposes .. .. | The President.<br>Prof. G. Thoumaïan.<br>Mr. S. M. Gregory.   |



## DO BUSINESS WITH PERSIA! 1,000 things are wanted!

ADVERTISE YOUR GOODS IN PERSIAN PAPERS.

### INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING AND INFORMATION BUREAU, AND NEWS AGENCY FOR PERSIA AND THE CAUCASUS.

Questions on all subjects relating to Persia and the Caucasus promptly answered and businesses arranged.

Advertisements in all Persian and Caucasian newspapers published in all required languages.

Agents at Tabriz for the sale of "Ararat."

Mihran BAGHDASARIAN, Manager,

**TABRIZ, PERSIA.**

N.B.—Please register your letters.

**The Asiatic Review.**—Noted for its articles on Eastern Politics, Finance, Literature and Art. Every six weeks, 2s. 6d. net. Annual subscription, £1 post free. Editorial Offices, Westminster Chambers, 3, Victoria Street, S.W.

**The Moslem World.**—A quarterly review of current events, literature, and thought among Mohammedans. and the progress of Christian Missions in Moslem lands.

"The Moslem World" is a Christian quarterly, and has always been pro-Armenian.

Edited by Dr. Samuel M. Zwemer, of Cairo.

London: Christian Literature Society for India, 35, John Street, Bedford Row, W.C.

1s. per copy, or 4s. per annum, post free.

### THE SULTAN OF EGYPT CIGARETTES.

When you smoke these, you are not only enjoying the World's Best Cigarettes, but you are also smoking *patriotically*.

The Sultan of Egypt Cigarettes are hand-made, and the tobacco is blended by an expert.

The Sultan of Egypt Cigarette Co. is entirely an Armenian establishment, and the Managing Director, Mr. L. Tashjian, has decided to give half the profits to the Armenian Refugees' Fund on all orders coming through *Ararat*. Every time you buy them, therefore, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping a good cause.

#### PRICE LIST.

No. 4	...	...	7/- per 100.	No. 6	...	...	5/6 per 100.
" 10	...	...	4/-	" 12	...	...	2/9
" 8 (Virginian)	...	...	3/6	Delivered Post Free.			

The Best that money can buy. Try them now.

Head Office:—1, Oxford Circus Avenue, London, W. (2 doors from Tube Station.)

### ORIENTAL RESTAURANT.

Breakfasts, Dinners, Teas, Etc.

"Stamboul" Cigarettes and Tobacco. Turkish Coffee a Speciality.  
POPULAR PRICES. Proprietor—SMPAD KESSEDJIAN.

16, ARTHUR STREET, off Tottenham Court Road, W.

Terms for advertisements in "Ararat." Apply to the Hon. Secretary, The Armenian United Association of London, 44, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W.

## The Armenian United Association of London.

FOUNDED 1898. RECONSTRUCTED 1913.

#### General Council:

G. M. GREGORY, Lieut.-Col., V.D., *President*.

J. G. JOAKIM, *Vice-President*.

A. P. HACOBIAN, { *Vice-President and*  
                          *Hon. Treasurer.*

J. A. CALANTAR, M.D., *Hon. Asst. Treas.*

M. BALIAN.

H. N. MOSDITCHIAN.

M. K. GUDENIAN, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

S. P. STEPHENS.

D. ARSLANIAN.

This Association has been founded with the double object of (1) drawing together all Armenians in the British capital, bringing them into touch with the British public, and thus establishing a closer sympathy between the two nations; and (2) focussing in the centre of the civilised world the many questions, both social and national, which affect Armenia and the Armenians.

With the above objects in view, the Association is directing its energies to—

- (1) The establishment of a permanent habitation in London, which will embrace a hall for meetings, a reading-room and a library.
- (2) The organisation of social and literary gatherings.
- (3) The relief and education of Armenian orphans rendered destitute through chronic misrule in Armenia.
- (4) Watching the trend of political affairs affecting Armenia, and doing the utmost by pacific means towards the amelioration of the country and the people through (a) a Standing Committee, and by (b) the publication of literature.
- (5) The gradual raising of a fund for the establishment of an Armenian Church in London.

Membership is open to Armenians of both sexes.

Subscription:—Annual, 10/-; entrance fee, 5/-. Life Members, 5 guineas.

Sympathisers and friends of other nationalities are eligible for election as Hon. Members, but they have no voice in the management, and pay no subscriptions.

It will be evident that the above nominal subscription is just sufficient for the bare social functions of the Association. The more important functions are dependent for their success on the liberality of sympathisers, and donations are earnestly requested for the above national objects from those who are in a position to contribute. The response since the reorganisation of the Association has been very encouraging, but much more is needed to place the Association on a secure basis for prosecuting the work outlined above.

Communications affecting Membership, or any of the objects of the Association, should be addressed to

THE HON. SECRETARY,  
44, Queen's Road,  
Bayswater, London, W.



## ADVERTISEMENTS.

---

### PERIODICALS CONNECTED WITH ARMENIA.

**Pro Armenia.**—An organ in support of reforms in Armenia and in Turkey. Annual subscription, 10 francs. 31, Villa d'Alesia, Paris XIV<sup>e</sup>.

**The Friend of Armenia**—Published quarterly. Annual subscription, 1s. 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

---

### BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, MAPS, &c.

**Armenia.**—Its People, Sufferings and Demands. The British Armenia Committee, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London. 1d.

**The Truth about Armenia.** by EMILY J. ROBINSON. 1d., by post 1½d. One doz. copies, 1s., or 7/6 for 100 copies, post free. Apply to Miss Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W.

**Map of Turkish Armenia.**—Enlarged edition of the Map appearing in this periodical, on cloth to fold, in cover, 1s. per copy. Apply to Assistant Secretary, The Armenian United Association, 44, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W.

**The Church of Armenia**—Her History, Doctrine, Rule, Discipline, Liturgy, Literature, and Existing Condition, by Mgr. Malachia Ormanian, translated by G. Marcar Gregory V.D., 5s. net (postage 4d.). Apply to the translator, 36, Gunterstone Road, West Kensington, London, W.

**Raffi's Works**—Samuel, 8s.; Davit Beg, 8s.; Kaitzer I and II, 12s.; Khent, Djaleddin, 5s.; Khamsai Meliks, 5s.; Persia, 5s.; Khachakogh, 5s.; Salbi, 8s.; Tachkahajk, 3s.; Zahrumar, 5s. Apply Mrs. Raffi, 32, Richmond Gardens, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

**The People of Armenia.**—A lecture delivered in Paris by Archag Tchobanian, translated into English by G. Marcar Gregory. Published by J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London, 1s. 6d. net. Now ready. Copies in any number can also be had through the Assistant Secretary, Armenian United Association, 44, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W.

**Travel and Politics in Armenia.**—By NOEL BUXTON, M.P., and the Rev. HAROLD BUXTON. With an Introduction by Viscount BRYCE, and a Contribution on ARMENIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, by ARAM RAFFI. (*Smith, Elder.*) 5s. net.